

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

Thursday, October 7, 2010

County of San Diego

Department of Planning and Land Use

5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B

San Diego, California

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1 SAN DIEGO, CA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2010, 5:12 P.M.

2

3 DR. PELL: I'll start by introducing myself.  
4 I'm Dr. Jerry Pell with the Department of Energy in  
5 D.C., and I'm with the Office of Electricity Delivery  
6 and Energy Reliability and I'm the project manager for  
7 the preparation of this Environmental Impact Statement.

8 And on my right is Patrick Brown with the  
9 San Diego County -- first thing I want to say, Patrick,  
10 is thank you for your hospitality in hosting this  
11 meeting tonight, and we'll introduce Patrick in greater  
12 detail in a moment.

13 But just by way of telling you how I'm going to  
14 run this thing, I have a short slide show to show you  
15 which you really don't need to stare at too carefully  
16 because it's just what I have as a handout. So if you  
17 picked up a copy of the handout, those are the slides  
18 you're going to be seeing on the screen, so you can just  
19 follow along from the written copy, and we will then  
20 take public comments for the record.

21 So let me introduce Patrick and then we'll  
22 start with the presentation.

23 MR. BROWN: Hi. I'm Patrick Brown. I'm with  
24 the County planning department. This is our planning  
25 commission hearing room, so I volunteered, we

1 volunteered, this up for Jerry to give some of the folks  
2 that maybe get off work and can't get out in time to  
3 Jacumba or Boulevard or wherever, you know, to make the  
4 meeting. So I'm glad to see that many of you made it  
5 tonight so it wasn't a wasted offering. I'll actually  
6 mention this to the PUC on the East County Substation  
7 meetings, too. I think this has been rather successful  
8 at this point.

9           So I'm the land use environmental planner and  
10 project manager for the ESJ project for the County. I  
11 think a differentiation that needs to be made right  
12 upfront is that what Jerry's doing with DOE is for the  
13 Presidential permit. What the County's doing is for the  
14 County's Major Use Permit. Our processes are overlaid  
15 on top of each other. So that's why the County is a  
16 cooperating agency tonight, and I'll go into further  
17 detail later in the presentation.

18           DR. PELL: By way of additional introduction,  
19 I'm an environmental scientist. I've been with DOE for  
20 34 years, and I've been doing environmental scientific  
21 work of one kind or another for 40 years. So why do I  
22 still do this? Why haven't I retired? Because I enjoy  
23 what I do and I enjoy being at meetings with you. So as  
24 long as I keep having fun, I'm going to keep going, as  
25 long as my health holds up. So why retire when there's

1 good work to be done?

2 Turning to the slides, the -- all right. Make  
3 sure I'm reading from the right slide. The reason why  
4 the Federal Government's involved, as Patrick mentioned,  
5 is because the project developer, Sempra, provided an  
6 application, submitted an application, to the Department  
7 of Energy to build a transmission line that would cross  
8 the border from Mexico into the United States; and  
9 there's an executive order that came out of the White  
10 House that's on the books that's about 50 or 60 years  
11 old -- I think it goes all the way back to the 1950s --  
12 that requires Federal approval, an issuance of a permit,  
13 to cross the border with a transmission line or to move  
14 power across the border with a transmission line. So  
15 that's why it's called a Presidential permit, because  
16 the executive order obviously came out of the White  
17 House.

18 So that's the basic history of it. And once  
19 you have a Federal permit process, this immediately  
20 means that you're required to follow the rules of the  
21 National Environmental Policy Act to conduct the  
22 appropriate environmental analysis. In this particular  
23 case, the proposed project is what we consider to be a  
24 major Federal action, which is a term of art, and the  
25 nature of the project is such that we're now doing an

1 Environmental Impact Statement.

2           The history of the project: If you look at the  
3 slide, the original application came to us in December  
4 of 2007, so it's almost three years from the application  
5 to this report. So a lot of work has been done in the  
6 interim. The process originally started with a  
7 colleague of mine, not myself, as an environmental  
8 assessment, and by February of '09 it was decided that  
9 an environmental assessment was not adequate and that we  
10 should do a full-fledged Environmental Impact Statement,  
11 which is what we have now.

12           It was issued on September 17, and there's a  
13 45-day comment period. The clock started ticking on  
14 that September 17 date. It closes on the 1st of  
15 November. So any material you want to submit subsequent  
16 to tonight, between now and the 1st of November, whether  
17 you want to submit it on our Web site, which is what I  
18 would recommend, or send it to me directly by e-mail or  
19 by regular mail, you still have until November the 1st  
20 to provide additional material.

21           If you're going to send me something on paper,  
22 please do not send it to DOE by regular mail because it  
23 gets held up. It goes through security screening and it  
24 literally fries the document. So I have received stuff  
25 that has been xeroxed where the carbon particles that

1 constitute the xerox ink dissolved into pages that are  
2 all stuck together and you just take it out of the  
3 envelope and throw it in the trash. You can't separate  
4 the pages.

5           So if you're going to send me something to the  
6 agency that's on paper, send it by FedEx or UPS or USPS  
7 overnight or some similar service so it avoids the  
8 security screening. Also, it delays it about two weeks.  
9 So that's why it's actually best to submit it  
10 electronically.

11           Once the comment period closes on the 1st of  
12 November, all the comments will be made available on the  
13 project Web site. Everything that we receive is public.  
14 The transcripts that the court reporter is preparing  
15 from the three nights, tonight and last two nights, will  
16 be on that Web site.

17           We will then enter the final EIS preparation  
18 phase which will essentially constitute responding to  
19 the comments that came in during the comment period, and  
20 then a final EIS will be issued and then DOE will  
21 prepare a Record of Decision, which is exactly how it  
22 sounds. It's the document that will summarize what was  
23 in the EIS and which of the alternative actions the  
24 government has decided to take.

25           And if you read the study, there are

1 alternatives in the study, one of which is the no action  
2 alternative where the Record of Decision would recommend  
3 denying the Presidential permit. If the Record of  
4 Decision favors the Presidential permit, then we would  
5 issue the Presidential permit as a separate document,  
6 typically almost at the same time. So that's where we  
7 stand.

8 The next two slides pertain to the County's  
9 process, and at that point I will let Patrick do them  
10 justice because that's under his jurisdiction.

11 MR. BROWN: Okay. As I mentioned previously,  
12 the County is a cooperating agency with DOE, and the  
13 reason why we're a cooperating agency is the County is  
14 the permitting authority for the construction and  
15 ongoing operation of the proposed generation-tie line.

16 So Sempra made an application with the County  
17 for a Major Use Permit for a major impact service  
18 utility for the five lattice towers, or actually it will  
19 be four lattice towers, and the lines that go across  
20 from Mexico.

21 The County's been participating with the  
22 California Public Utilities Commission, BLM, on a joint  
23 EIR/EIS for the East County Substation. Because the  
24 gen-tie line was hooking into the East County  
25 Substation, the PUC considered it a connected action as



1 well as they did with the Tule Wind farm.

2 So the document that the County would be using  
3 for the Major Use Permit for the environmental  
4 processing is not this EIS that's prepared by DOE, but  
5 it would be the EIR/EIS that's being prepared by the  
6 California Public Utilities Commission. We are what we  
7 consider a responsible agency. We're not the lead  
8 agency, but we're the responsible agency under CEQA for  
9 that process.

10 So I believe I covered up on that pretty good  
11 tonight. I'm getting better, third night.

12 DR. PELL: Good practice.

13 MR. BROWN: So anybody wants to know more about  
14 that, you know, feel free to contact me, but we're here  
15 participating. We're also providing comment as well,  
16 consistency comments and other comments, on how the  
17 project would affect the County.

18 And this EIS, just so you know, the County did  
19 review all the technical studies that were prepared for  
20 this, many of them I should say, for County standards  
21 and pursuant to our guidelines determined the  
22 significance. Entrix, the contractor, which is Tim and  
23 Megan there, they used the technical studies that the  
24 County had reviewed to make sure that they're in  
25 compliance with our ordinances and guidelines such as

1 like the noise ordinance and lighting ordinance. They  
2 used those in preparation of this EIS, so we did have a  
3 hand in providing technical information per the County's  
4 standards.

5 DR. PELL: Okay. You mentioned Entrix.  
6 Patrick just mentioned Entrix, which reminds me I want  
7 to be on the record thanking Entrix, Tim and Megan and  
8 the staff, for doing all of the physical labor to put  
9 these meetings together and prepare the documents and  
10 bring all the materials to the meetings and set up slide  
11 projectors and what have you. So they've done a great  
12 job, and so I just want the record to note my  
13 appreciation.

14 Okay. The next slide is just a quick overview  
15 of the project itself. I assume if you're here, you  
16 probably know what it's about. The proposal is to  
17 construct a transmission line of either 230,000 volts or  
18 500,000 volts from a proposed wind farm in Baja  
19 California that will connect the energy from that wind  
20 farm to the proposed ECO Substation, ECO being the  
21 East County Substation, of course.

22 The next slide, Tim, please. The length of the  
23 line on the U.S. side of the border is only .65 miles  
24 long which is, you know, 3,000-odd feet. So it only  
25 requires on the American side five towers to hold the

1 line, and they can be either the standard conventional  
2 lattice towers which you usually see on transmission  
3 lines or monopoles.

4           If you look in the document, there are diagrams  
5 there that show the two different styles. It's  
6 interesting that the analysis seems to favor the  
7 lattice-type tower as being less obtrusive visually than  
8 the monopoles, which frankly was a surprise to me  
9 because I would normally think the monopoles would be  
10 less visible. So that's why we have these experts.

11           On the south side of the border, the line  
12 extends for about a mile, I believe, to where it  
13 connects to a substation that then goes to the wind  
14 machines on the Baja California side.

15           Okay. The wind machines for the first phase of  
16 the proposed project would number about 52 at a nominal  
17 2 1/2 megawatts per machine, although the company tells  
18 me they haven't picked a precise model or vendor yet.  
19 You're looking at a proposed generation capacity in the  
20 first phase of about 130 megawatts of power.

21           Long-term, as you'll see in the document, the  
22 project is hoping to add additional phases for an  
23 ultimate build-out that would equal approximately  
24 1,250 megawatts in electrical capacity. All of those  
25 additional build-outs would be south of the starting

1 Phase 1 area. So all of the turbines, all of the wind  
2 machines, in subsequent phases would be further away  
3 from the U.S. border. The closest wind machine, I  
4 believe, to the border would be about .7 miles south of  
5 the border.

6 Okay. Next slide, Tim. In the process of  
7 conducting the preparation of the Environmental Impact  
8 Statement, we consulted with numerous appropriate  
9 agencies, both Federal, State, and local including the  
10 ones you see on the screen. Fish and Wildlife Service  
11 we consulted with.

12 We sent letters of invitation to consult to the  
13 known 15 Indian tribes in the general area, of which one  
14 actually elected to go to consultation with us and that  
15 was the Campo tribe, and that consultation process was  
16 completed satisfactorily in the fall of '09.

17 Other agencies we consulted with are the Border  
18 Patrol, as you might expect considering their presence  
19 in the area, Bureau of Land Management, Federal Aviation  
20 Administration with regard to aircraft concerns,  
21 Environmental Protection Agency, and several California  
22 State agencies including Fish and Game and Parks and  
23 Recs, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and, of  
24 course, Patrick's been involved on behalf of the County  
25 of San Diego.

1 In terms of the environmental issues we looked  
2 at, they run the spectrum of all of the areas of  
3 potential environmental impact that is comprehensively  
4 included in a normal EIS, everything from biological  
5 resources to environmental justice, and you'll see all  
6 of that in the document.

7 Just to summarize a couple of the findings,  
8 biological resources, the report concludes that indeed  
9 there would be a temporary habitat disturbance during  
10 the construction phase of the line. Because of the  
11 installation of the towers, there'd be permanent  
12 disturbance to about ten acres. That's collectively  
13 adding up all the areas of all the towers and other  
14 physical plant that might be involved.

15 And there is a definite potential for increased  
16 fire risk as well which we can talk about, but it's well  
17 documented in the report.

18 With regard to special status species, some of  
19 these names will probably be very familiar to you. The  
20 Quino checkerspot butterfly was determined to undergo no  
21 impacts by virtue of the project; California condor,  
22 very low probability of occurrence in the project  
23 region; Peninsular bighorn sheep, critical habitat  
24 avoided. I understand that some of you have found that  
25 the bighorn sheep do stray from the critical habitat,

1 but as far as the critical habitat area itself is  
2 concerned, that is essentially two miles east of the  
3 proposed site.

4 Other species, arroyo toad, southwestern willow  
5 flycatcher, and a bird called the Least Bell's Vireo,  
6 low potential for effect.

7 Next slide, please. Under Visual Resources, we  
8 do find the transmission lines will be visible from  
9 several Key Observation Points, which are abbreviated in  
10 the document as KOPs. There are ways to reduce the  
11 impacts including such things as, as I was mentioning  
12 earlier, the lattice towers being preferable to  
13 monopoles.

14 If you look in the document itself, you will  
15 see a number of visual representations, and they're on  
16 these charts on these easels over here on my left, that  
17 show you representations of how they would look before  
18 and after construction.

19 The next slide lists potential mitigation for  
20 the transmission lines with regard to visibility. That  
21 includes reduced reflectivity and visual contrast,  
22 reduced color contrast, et cetera, but I will leave it  
23 to you to look in the report itself where it's  
24 documented in great detail.

25 The next slide refers to a Table 2-3 which I

1 ask you to consider. If you look at no other part of  
2 the report, that is probably the heart of the  
3 Environmental Impact Statement because it summarizes in  
4 several pages the expected or potential impacts by  
5 resource areas, so I just wanted to bring that table to  
6 your attention. That table is reproduced in the summary  
7 as well as in the full-blown Environmental Impact  
8 Statement, also.

9           Next slide. Again, to reiterate, we look  
10 forward to hearing your comments on the adequacy,  
11 completeness, and technical accuracy of the analysis in  
12 the Environmental Impact Statement. You can send it to  
13 me directly or, as you see here on the slide, to our  
14 project Web site where you can also upload attachment  
15 files if you like.

16           The document's available on that Web site.  
17 It's also available on the DOE agency, Environmental  
18 Impact Statement NEPA office Web site. The address is  
19 on that slide as well, and again reminding you about the  
20 November 1st deadline.

21           Let me just add, if circumstances are such that  
22 you can't possibly meet that deadline or if you come  
23 across supplemental materials you think are important  
24 that you submit, you can come in later than November the  
25 1st. But after November the 1st, it's on the basis of

1 whether we can practically consider your comments. If  
2 you come in November 2nd or 3rd, of course, it's not  
3 going to be a problem. If you come in the following  
4 June, we might be at the printer and we would not be  
5 able to consider your comments.

6 So I ask you to please do try to make that  
7 November the 1st deadline, but if you can't make it,  
8 it's not too late. And if you have an issue that you  
9 want to discuss with me, then just call me or e-mail me  
10 or whatever and we'll be glad to discuss with you the  
11 submittal of subsequent documents or comments after that  
12 closing date.

13 All of the major contact parties that are  
14 involved with the project are shown in the handout or  
15 the slide. I'm there. Patrick's there. Tim Murphy,  
16 our consultant from Entrix who prepared the EIS sitting  
17 back there, is on there, as well as Alberto Abreu on  
18 behalf of Sempra. So we're not hard to get a hold of.

19 That completes the slides themselves, and we  
20 will now enter the taking of comments for the record.

21 Ms. Donna Tisdale who is with us tonight, was  
22 also with us in Jacumba and Boulevard, and she came up  
23 from down there to be here with us tonight and she asked  
24 me to make a special exception to let her go first  
25 because she has a meeting that she has to get back to as



1 soon as she's through. So we'll extend the courtesy to  
2 Ms. Tisdale to start off and then go on to the list.

3 I ask you to please keep in mind that you are  
4 being transcribed by a court reporter, so please try to  
5 speak slowly and articulate clearly so that she gets  
6 down the words that you want her to record.

7 MS. DONNA TISDALE: Thank you and thank you for  
8 letting me go first. Donna Tisdale and, once again, I'm  
9 representing myself as an individual, the Boulevard  
10 Planning Group, Backcountry Against Dumps, and the  
11 Protect Our Communities Foundation.

12 The ESJ project is proposed by Energia Sierra  
13 Juarez, a subsidiary of Sempra Generation which is a  
14 subsidiary of Sempra Energy. Sempra Energy had revenues  
15 of 12 billion in 2006, 11 billion in 2008, and 8 billion  
16 in 2009. In a 2006 report, they stated they had  
17 provided investors with an average annual return in  
18 excess of 15 percent.

19 It was announced in the attached September 28th  
20 press release that Luis Tellez, who currently serves as  
21 chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the  
22 Mexican Stock Exchange, was reelected to join Sempra  
23 Energy's board of directors. The press release also  
24 states that, quote, As a government official Tellez was  
25 a key player in crucial policy decisions to improve the

1 structure of the Mexican economy, agriculture,  
2 infrastructure, and energy, unquote.

3 One can surmise that Mr. Tellez has likely been  
4 handsomely rewarded for no doubt helping Sempra with  
5 their multibillion dollar investments in their natural  
6 gas infrastructure in Mexico, with shepherding those  
7 projects and this ESJ project through the Mexican  
8 permitting agencies, and it sounds like a very  
9 convenient and profitable partnership for both Sempra  
10 and Mr. Tellez. I believe a large part of that profit  
11 has come at the expense of the Mexican people, their  
12 impacted communities, and their resources.

13 I'm providing a copy of the map showing  
14 Sempra's natural gas pipelines in northern Baja. One  
15 pipeline runs through the ESJ lease area. A new water  
16 line was installed for the same area in the last few  
17 years. In the future, a gas-fired power plant could be  
18 built in the ESJ area that could access the proposed  
19 cross-border power line with an amended Presidential  
20 permit.

21 On the Mexican social injustice --  
22 social/environmental injustice issues on the Mexican  
23 side, ESJ is an export-only wind energy project. It's  
24 my understanding that under Mexican law, Sempra can  
25 write off 100 percent of the cost of their ESJ turbine

1 project to an accelerated depreciation tax incentive for  
2 renewable energy projects.

3 Therefore, the Mexican people will bear the  
4 financial burden of building Sempra's wind energy  
5 project that will not provide any energy whatsoever to  
6 Mexico. They will be subsidizing 100 percent of the  
7 building of the ESJ wind project that will be exported  
8 for use for American consumers. If that is not a social  
9 and environmental injustice, I don't know what is. This  
10 is just one of many examples of how Sempra runs  
11 roughshod over the Mexican people and their resources  
12 while reaping incredible profits from their self-serving  
13 actions.

14 It has been stated that the Mexican  
15 environmental permit for this project has been approved.  
16 Department of Energy must understand that the first  
17 approval is heavily conditioned. Those conditions  
18 include a one-year avian study, a change in land use  
19 designation away from forest lands, and Sempra is  
20 required to provide specifics on the turbine  
21 manufacturers, GPS locations for each turbine, road, and  
22 project accessory. All of these conditions must be met  
23 at least six months prior to any construction.

24 The Mexican approvals are far from a done deal  
25 which is why they told the press, why Sempra told the

1 press, they will not build the project until it is  
2 needed. The project may never be built, and this  
3 Presidential permit can then be amended to allow the  
4 transmission of nonrenewable energy from Sempra's  
5 multibillion dollar Mexican natural gas infrastructure  
6 including their existing gas line that runs through the  
7 Energia Sierra Juarez lease area.

8 On the local U.S. social and environmental  
9 justice issues --

10 DR. PELL: Excuse me, Donna. I just missed  
11 that whole sentence. On the local?

12 MS. TISDALE: On the local U.S. social and  
13 environmental justice issues, it has been falsely stated  
14 that the locally impacted U.S. communities of Jacumba  
15 and Boulevard are not low income and there are no  
16 environmental justice issues.

17 I am providing two printouts from  
18 greatschools.org. Our two rural communities share  
19 two campuses. My two youngest granddaughters attend  
20 these schools. The printout show that Jacumba  
21 Elementary with grades K through 2 has 50 students with  
22 62 percent participating in the free or reduced-lunch  
23 program. The state average is 51 percent. 28 percent  
24 are English learners. The state average is 24 percent.  
25 Clover Flat Elementary in Boulevard with grades

1 3 through 6 has 84 students with 91 percent  
2 participating in the free or reduced-lunch program. The  
3 state average is 51 percent. English learners are  
4 23 percent with a state average of 24 percent.

5 We have a higher number of Native American  
6 students with 8 percent at Jacumba Elementary and  
7 12 percent at Clover Flat. State average is less than  
8 1 percent. One would assume that the vast majority of  
9 students on the Mexican side of Jacume and La Rumorosa  
10 are of Latino heritage.

11 For the record, I'm submitting 42 pages I  
12 printed off of our Backcountry Against Dumps Web site to  
13 show the extent of number and large-scale energy and  
14 transmission projects represent a significant,  
15 cumulative, and negative impacts to our natural  
16 resources, our low-income communities, our local  
17 properties, our quality of life, and more.

18 And as I have stated previously, our group will  
19 be submitting much more detailed comments by the  
20 November 1st deadline, and I will hand you copies of  
21 these pages.

22 And I also for the record include a copy of the  
23 documentary that our group put together on the Sunrise  
24 Powerlink which includes a video of the CEO, Sempra CEO,  
25 talking about how natural gas is a backup and it's

1 needed for intermittent wind and solar.

2 DR. PELL: Donna, the 42 pages you referred to,  
3 is it possible for us to get that electronically?

4 MS. TISDALE: Yes, but I wanted to put it in  
5 the record because --

6 DR. PELL: That's fine. That's fine. It's  
7 just easier for us to --

8 MS. TISDALE: Oftentimes you give somebody a  
9 link and they never open it.

10 DR. PELL: No, but the reason I ask is if you  
11 give it to us electronically, then it's easy for us to  
12 post on the Web site for all to see. It just  
13 facilitates it.

14 MS. TISDALE: Thank you very much.

15 DR. PELL: There's 42 pages less of scanning.

16 MS. TISDALE: I understand. I just want it in  
17 the record. Thank you.

18 DR. PELL: Thank you very much, Ms. Tisdale.

19 We now move on to Johnny Simpson who's with the  
20 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

21 MR. JOHNNY SIMPSON: Hi. My name is  
22 Johnny Simpson. I'm business manager of the  
23 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,  
24 Local 569, representing over 2,100 members throughout  
25 San Diego and Imperial counties. IBEW Local 569 is here

1 today speaking in opposition to Sempra's energy  
2 application for a Presidential permit to construct a  
3 cross-border transmission line between northern Baja  
4 Mexico and San Diego County.

5           The transmission project proposed in this  
6 application would undermine several goals in Obama's  
7 administration. Specifically, one, it would facilitate  
8 offshoring of American jobs. Sempra's cross-border  
9 transmission lines would enable the company to build  
10 energy projects in Mexico and import the energy into the  
11 United States instead of building them here where the  
12 power is being used. This moves our economy in the  
13 wrong direction at a time when we should be creating  
14 jobs in the U.S.

15           Two, it would increase the United States  
16 dependency upon imported energy. The administration has  
17 emphasized the need for America to become energy  
18 independent. Approving a cross-border transmission line  
19 to import energy from Mexico is the exact opposite of  
20 the President's stated goal. Our nation's economic  
21 future and security depends on developing energy  
22 infrastructure within our borders.

23           Three, it would undermine American  
24 environmental and labor laws. A core component of  
25 President Obama's campaign was his commitment to green

1 economy that would usher in a period of environmental  
2 advancement and economic prosperity. Construction of a  
3 cross-border transmission line will undermine the  
4 President's vision by enabling Sempra Energy to deliver  
5 electricity to the United States from foreign facilities  
6 not built to American labor and environmental standards.

7 If we are to reclaim America's middle class,  
8 our nation must eliminate opportunities for corporations  
9 to export our jobs, exploit our workers, and raid our  
10 national resources. For these reasons, we respectfully  
11 request the Department of Energy to reject Sempra's  
12 application for a cross-border Presidential permit.

13 DR. PELL: Thank you very much, Mr. Simpson.  
14 Appreciate that.

15 I now have Barbara Garcia representing the  
16 Sierra Club.

17 MS. BARBARA GARCIA: Hello. My name is  
18 Barbara Garcia and I'm here representing the Sierra  
19 Club, San Diego, and their position in this matter.

20 The Sierra Club would like to express its  
21 support in the denial of Sempra Energy's application for  
22 this Presidential permit. The concerns are that this  
23 application would severely undermine American  
24 environmental and labor laws.

25 The Obama Administration expressed their



1 commitment to a green economy that could lead us --

2 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. You're going to have  
3 to speak a little bit slower.

4 MS. GARCIA: Sorry. The concerns are that this  
5 application would severely undermine American  
6 environmental and labor laws. The Obama Administration  
7 expressed their commitment to a green economy that could  
8 lead us into a new era of environmental and economic  
9 prosperity.

10 By approving cross-border transmission lines,  
11 you are undermining this goal by allowing energy to be  
12 delivered into the United States by Sempra Energy from  
13 facilities that are built outside of the U.S. and,  
14 therefore, not in accordance with our labor and  
15 environmental standards, not to mention allowing this  
16 would facilitate the offshoring of American jobs.

17 Putting in cross-border transmission lines  
18 would allow Sempra Energy to build energy projects in  
19 Mexico and then import that energy into the U.S. instead  
20 of building them inside where the power is being used.  
21 This takes job possibilities away from Americans at a  
22 time when we should be looking for every opportunity to  
23 revive our economy and put Americans back to work.  
24 Therefore, we respectfully request that you reject  
25 Sempra's application.

1 DR. PELL: Thank you very much, Ms. Garcia.  
2 We now have Shannon Dougherty with San Diego  
3 Audubon Society.

4 MS. SHANNON DOUGHERTY: The San Diego Audubon  
5 Society is concerned about impacts to migratory birds  
6 including raptors, neo-traffic migrants, and  
7 winter-season avian visitors that may result from the  
8 construction of this transmission line.

9 We would like to see information detailing the  
10 survey methodology included in the final EIS and expect  
11 that a comprehensive survey approach is utilized  
12 including radar monitoring to assess nighttime migration  
13 and monitoring at different times of the year and day to  
14 capture seasonal variability in avian populations.

15 We'd also like to view the data that informed  
16 the determination that the project site is not located  
17 within a known migratory corridor or flyway. We are  
18 concerned that because the transmission line project  
19 site is located between two important montane bird  
20 areas --

21 DR. PELL: I'm sorry. What was that word  
22 again?

23 MS. DOUGHERTY: Two important montane,  
24 mountain, bird areas.

25 DR. PELL: Mountain bird areas.

1 MS. DOUGHERTY: -- that live in the mountains  
2 in the Sierra de Juarez that are characterized by high  
3 ridgelines, foraging rafters and other migrants will be  
4 impacted. The project location is a potential and  
5 presumed avian corridor of birds moving from north to  
6 south along the cross-border ridgeline. In fact,  
7 Jacumba and In-Ko-Pah villages are locally recognized  
8 migrant traps due to the presence of seasonal water  
9 resources and agricultural influences.

10 Because this transmission line can impede the  
11 cross-border movement of birds as a result of connected  
12 actions in Mexico, we consider that Energia Sierra  
13 Juarez wind project to be an indirect impact of this  
14 project. We are concerned that construction of the  
15 proposed wind project and the associated transmission  
16 line can impede the cross-border movement of raptors and  
17 migratory birds and will affect bird behaviors in ways  
18 that significantly impact local populations.

19 We are specifically concerned with impacts to  
20 golden eagles since this project site is located within  
21 a known wintering location and is immediately adjacent  
22 to a confirmed breeding location for this species.  
23 Currently, electrocution on power lines is the largest  
24 source of mortality for this species. We would like to  
25 see detailed information on how these impacts will be

1 mitigated in the final review document.

2 Lastly, there should also be a protocol in  
3 place that ensures additional and adaptive mitigation  
4 measures will be devised and implemented should avian  
5 and other wildlife populations be negatively impacted  
6 during project operations.

7 We would like to see a protocol in place that  
8 would facilitate the sharing of monitoring data among  
9 projects considered in the cumulative effects analysis  
10 so that any cumulative impacts can be identified and  
11 addressed in a timely and effective manner.

12 DR. PELL: Thank you very much. Appreciate it,  
13 Shannon.

14 We now have Daniel Coffey.

15 MR. DANIEL COFFEY: Yes. I find myself --  
16 first of all, my name is Daniel Coffey. My back is --

17 DR. PELL: I'm sorry. Could you do me a favor.  
18 Could you come up a little bit closer because it would  
19 make it easier for us to hear and for the court reporter  
20 to hear you.

21 MR. COFFEY: Sure. My name is Daniel Coffey.  
22 My background is in engineering and law and  
23 environmental issues, and I also write an opinion column  
24 for The Daily Transcript and I've written quite a lot,  
25 something in the neighborhood of about 50 columns on

1 renewable energy issues.

2 DR. PELL: What is The Daily Transcript?

3 MR. COFFEY: It's the official legal newspaper  
4 for printing legal news or notices in the County of  
5 San Diego and it's also a business newspaper that's read  
6 by a variety of businesses.

7 DR. PELL: Specific to the County?

8 MR. COFFEY: Well, it's got an online presence.  
9 So I don't know, but its service as the official notice  
10 paper is for the County of San Diego. Its function as a  
11 newspaper obviously reaches beyond the County, as do  
12 most other online and/or print newspapers.

13 DR. PELL: Thank you.

14 MR. COFFEY: I find myself, having studied this  
15 issue quite a lot, in support of it because it's a very  
16 small project but its impact in terms of the renewable  
17 energy profile that it brings to the Southwest is very  
18 significant, because in the area where it is in northern  
19 Mexico there isn't much use for that much energy in the  
20 Mexican economy. There might be, but at the current  
21 time it doesn't seem that that's something that they're  
22 particularly interested in.

23 However, there's a great deal of use within the  
24 United States and a great deal of need for renewable  
25 energy which is not carbon-producing. And so as a

1 consequence, the other impacts that have to be weighed  
2 against the benefits to the environment that this  
3 particular project presents, at least in my mind, don't  
4 equate. There's a huge benefit. There's a huge benefit  
5 and a very, very tiny -- excuse me -- a very, very tiny  
6 impact.

7 I understand that opponents of this project  
8 have opposed basically everything having to do with  
9 transmission or construction of any kind of project  
10 having to do with energy production on the theory that  
11 there's going to be a utilization of coal or natural gas  
12 or something else that's going to be transmitted across  
13 this line. My understanding is that that will not occur  
14 and I think there's no provision for that within the  
15 Presidential permit, so I see no downside for permitting  
16 this particular project.

17 As far as the specific environmental issues,  
18 I'm going to submit comments for the record, but I just  
19 wanted to say, you know, as far as I can tell, this is a  
20 very good project, being handled with extreme care, at a  
21 very high level of environmental review, and that the  
22 objections to it, you know, frankly don't seem to have a  
23 lot of weight. So thank you very much.

24 DR. PELL: Thank you, Mr. Coffey. I appreciate  
25 that.

1           Somebody that's been with us before, let me  
2 welcome back Kevin Smith.

3           MR. BROWN: Cameo appearance.

4           MR. KEVIN SMITH: Actually, I am a supporter of  
5 wind energy and I heard what you said. I am not a  
6 supporter of an unfair advantage, and that's what I  
7 believe this is.

8           Sempra has the ability to pay for any  
9 interconnects they need, and in this choice they've  
10 chosen not to. They've placed the burden on SDG&E, and  
11 that's where I think if you were to do a little bit more  
12 research, you'd find out that would be the case.

13           They drop on the other side of the border where  
14 there's nothing -- on our side of the border, but  
15 there's nothing there for them to touch into and, voila,  
16 SDG&E puts in substations. That's unique. I wish I got  
17 that opportunity. The opportunities for us who try to  
18 develop wind are the exact opposite. We'll get no  
19 interconnect. We'll get no time. We'll get nothing.  
20 Write a check for a quarter of a million dollars and we  
21 can talk about it. We'll tell you what's on the line.

22           Don't tell us what's on the line. There's  
23 nothing on the south link. That's what Sempra's going  
24 into. There is no capacity. And I disagree with the  
25 80, by the way. It's 40 that's available, but it sure

1 is a far cry from 1,200. Either way it shouldn't be  
2 allowed. Thank you.

3 DR. PELL: Thank you, Kevin.

4 That completes the list of speakers that I have  
5 in front of me, so it's now open mic to anybody who  
6 would like to speak. We'd be glad to entertain that.

7 Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. JULIA GRIESS: I'm sorry. I had one filled  
9 out already.

10 MR. BROWN: Anybody else? Just let us know.

11 MS. GRIESS: My name is Julia Griess. I'm a  
12 concerned citizen opposing the way SDG&E and Sempra have  
13 gone about securing property in this area.

14 It appears SDG&E and Sempra have breached the  
15 China Wall. I was involved in an 8,000-acre development  
16 near Donna Tisdale. My sister lost her home on 25 acres  
17 in 2003. If you have never been threatened by fire, it  
18 is horribly stressful and scary. I rescued her dog as  
19 flames licked my car on Interstate 8. We were the last  
20 car to leave. No fire trucks went down her street -- I  
21 don't know why I'm getting so emotional. No trucks went  
22 down her street and about 63 out of 100 homes were lost.

23 In behalf of Donna Tisdale living through that,  
24 it took about a year for her to recover her life because  
25 it took -- it was so long, so many homes had been lost.



1 It took almost three months just to get a telephone pole  
2 installed in her area. So she gave up and moved back to  
3 the city, but I just thought I'd show you some of the  
4 images that Donna wanted me to share with you, if you  
5 want to see.

6 DR. PELL: Julia, do you have those in a format  
7 that we could provide on the Web site or --

8 MS. GRIESS: Sure, I could e-mail them to you.

9 DR. PELL: Please, because otherwise nobody  
10 other than the people here will ever see them.

11 MS. GRIESS: Yeah. Okay. Yeah, I can --

12 DR. PELL: Can you describe them for the  
13 record, what the photos are.

14 MS. GRIESS: This is a nighttime shot that was  
15 similar to what happened in the December 7th. I'm  
16 sorry. Yeah, the Boulevard, the 25 turbines that were  
17 there. There was witnesses that there was a blue glow  
18 and then the blue glow exploded and jumped to each wind  
19 turbine, I think pretty much destroying all the wind  
20 turbines. So all of the blades had to be replaced, and  
21 I believe the blades are still strewn around the area in  
22 Boulevard.

23 DR. PELL: Do you know whose wind machines they  
24 were?

25 MS. GRIESS: What's the name of it? It's a

1 Spanish -- you mean the manufacturer of the wind  
2 turbines?

3 DR. PELL: No, no, no, no. Who erected --  
4 whose land were they on? Who owns them?

5 MR. SMITH: It's Campo's.

6 MR. BROWN: It's Campo.

7 MS. GRIESS: And then these were some other  
8 images of when the blade releases from the wind  
9 turbines. This is only 60 wind turbines in this  
10 photograph.

11 This is another explosion and this is -- I  
12 think in your IRS [sic] report it says that this is the  
13 most airiest, driest area in California, so the chances  
14 of fire, they live with it daily.

15 This is a -- it's a rural area with a wind  
16 turbine that has caught fire.

17 And this is another wind turbine with the fire  
18 going all the way up the -- well, I'm at a loss of words  
19 here. This is probably close to the image that's out in  
20 Boulevard with the 25 wind turbines.

21 This is a wind turbine to show the size of it  
22 that has been knocked over.

23 And this is just another shot of the wind  
24 turbine that has been knocked over.

25 MR. ROBERT THOMPSON: Were those in the County?

1 DR. PELL: I'm sorry? Please identify  
2 yourself.

3 MR. THOMPSON: Oh, my name is Robert Thompson.

4 DR. PELL: I'd prefer that we didn't have --

5 MR. THOMPSON: Cross talk. Okay.

6 MS. GRIESS: Okay. Thank you very much for  
7 allowing me to speak. And I'll e-mail these. Donna  
8 e-mailed these, so I'll have her forward those to you.

9 DR. PELL: Great. Julia, just to make sure we  
10 have it right, is it J-u-l-i-a G-r-i-e-s-s?

11 MS. GRIESS: Yes.

12 DR. PELL: Thank you. Thank you very much.  
13 I'm just curious actually. Just as a little bit of a  
14 amateur photographer myself, how were those photos  
15 taken? Do you know? I mean, who happened to be at the  
16 vicinity at the time? Do you know?

17 MR. SMITH: That wasn't an actual, in  
18 Boulevard.

19 MS. GRIESS: Yeah, these aren't images of  
20 Boulevard.

21 DR. PELL: No, no. I'm talking about the wind  
22 machine photos that you showed.

23 MS. GRIESS: Oh, the December 7th in Boulevard?  
24 What happened on December 7th? I'm sorry. I don't  
25 understand your question.

1 DR. PELL: You showed some photographs of a  
2 wind machine that was on fire.

3 MS. GRIESS: Well, there's multiple. They're  
4 just various --

5 MR. SMITH: I think she'll probably have an  
6 attachment that will have all the --

7 DR. PELL: I'm just curious about how those  
8 photos happened to be taken. That's all.

9 MS. GRIESS: Yeah, I'll forward you Donna's  
10 e-mail.

11 DR. PELL: Not an important question by any  
12 means.

13 MS. GRIESS: Okay.

14 MR. COFFEY: Could I ask a question for  
15 clarification? I think it's the same question that was  
16 being asked. Are those from this county or are they  
17 just from some place in the United States? That's the  
18 question you're really asking.

19 DR. PELL: Well, yes. I'd like to know the  
20 identity of the wind machines.

21 MR. COFFEY: Right, and where they really are.

22 MR. SMITH: They're not from -- I don't know.

23 (Reporter interruption in proceedings;  
24 discussion off the record.)

25 DR. PELL: Back on. Julia, I was just

1 wondering if you could provide to us, at your  
2 convenience when you get a chance, some more information  
3 about specifically where those photographs were taken  
4 and when.

5 MS. GRIESS: Okay.

6 DR. PELL: And I wanted to make sure, I wanted  
7 clarification for the record, you do indicate that they  
8 were not from the local area, those wind machine fires?

9 MS. GRIESS: Yeah. They were actually  
10 forwarded to me from Donna, so I'll check with Donna.  
11 She just forgot to show the images, so she asked me.

12 DR. PELL: Thank you.

13 The next party I have is Denis Trafecanty who's  
14 with Protect Our Communities Foundation.

15 Is that correct, Mr. Trafecanty?

16 MR. DENIS TRAFECANTY: Yes, it is. Thank you.  
17 I spoke two nights ago, so I'm not going to repeat what  
18 I said before, so I'm going to add a few comments.

19 First of all, there's -- and I'm not an expert  
20 on this preserve, but there's what's called the  
21 Los Californias Binational Preserve that is located --  
22 it's -- I'll wait until --

23 DR. PELL: I'm sorry.

24 MR. TRAFECANTY: This Las Californias  
25 Binational Preserve, it's like a joint project between

1 the Mexican government and the U.S. government to  
2 establish a preserve for the Peninsular bighorn sheep so  
3 that the herds in Mexico could breed and go back and  
4 forth between the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and  
5 Mexico, and I don't really think this -- that's an  
6 agreement between two countries whereby the intention is  
7 to preserve an endangered species.

8 DR. PELL: Denis, there's no Border Patrol  
9 fence along that section of the border?

10 MR. TRAFECANTY: No. I mean, when we were in  
11 Jacumba just two days ago, all you had to do was look at  
12 the border fence and it goes up this mountain and it  
13 stops. And there's no fence. It's just a fence doesn't  
14 prevent -- and it was intended for the Mexican  
15 government and the U.S. government to enable the  
16 two herds to commingle and, in fact, there's been sheep,  
17 like you heard two nights ago -- I wasn't at the  
18 Boulevard meeting last night -- that interact with each  
19 other, the herds do.

20 DR. PELL: And those herds go back and forth  
21 across the border beyond the termination of that fence  
22 at the mountain?

23 MR. TRAFECANTY: Yes. And then also -- so  
24 that's the intention. This is an endangered species.  
25 You heard two nights ago that there are a lot of people

1 with evidence of bighorn sheep. I don't think this  
2 report really is sufficient from the standpoint of  
3 preservation of herds of sheep which should commingle.

4 I heard just a couple of things and I apologize  
5 for being late, but I do have another job besides this  
6 one, and Donna Tisdale mentioned this two nights ago,  
7 that the blades that had to be taken down in connection  
8 with that disastrous event that took place last winter  
9 are still laying on the ground.

10 I mean, the thing that troubles me so much with  
11 projects like this -- first of all, I don't think this  
12 ESJ is needed at all, this whole line, because you could  
13 either run that power into a Mexican line that was built  
14 years ago and bring it to San Diego that way or, like I  
15 said the other day, and I told you I would do this and I  
16 will do this, we can generate our own power here in  
17 San Diego, and you're going to see all kinds of jobs if  
18 you generate the power here in San Diego versus have a  
19 huge solar plant or a wind farm out there in the  
20 backcountry.

21 DR. PELL: Denis, excuse me for just a moment.  
22 When you say the wind blew the blades from the wind  
23 machine, are still lying on the ground, is that on the  
24 territory of the Campo tribe? Is that correct?

25 MR. TRAFECANTY: Yeah.

1 MR. SMITH: Yes.

2 MR. TRAFECANTY: Just makes the place look  
3 terrible, you know, for a beautiful wilderness area.

4 I wanted to mention some other thing that I  
5 just heard a little bit about, no fire was created on  
6 it. It's true there was no big huge forest fire. You  
7 usually don't get them in December when it's raining and  
8 cold. The humidity is high and the plants aren't ready  
9 to ignite as much, but I will tell you that the fire  
10 that was -- that you may not have -- I'm sure you heard  
11 about in connection with these hearings, but the fire  
12 that occurred in 2007 was an arcing power line due to  
13 wind that was estimated to be -- it could have been  
14 as -- I know the owner of the land, his name. It's the  
15 Tullock family, T-u-l-l-o-c-k, in Santa Ysabel.

16 He took me to where the lines were, and the  
17 arcing of the power lines with the clapping of the winds  
18 started that fire and it's been proven, and SDG&E and  
19 Sempra paid tons of money and the insurance costs are a  
20 lot higher as a result of it and they're trying to get  
21 the ratepayers to pay for their increased premiums. So  
22 fires will develop from things like wind turbines that  
23 explode and power lines that arc and stuff like that.

24 My main point -- I'm going to say a few other  
25 things before I sit down -- I don't think this project



1 is necessary. I don't think that we should be providing  
2 jobs for other countries when we need jobs for ourselves  
3 here in this country. I think that's very important.

4 I think that the President is not getting the  
5 facts about this. I don't think it's needed at all. I  
6 said that before, 'cause there are smarter energy  
7 solutions. There's a lot of sun here in San Diego and  
8 it's not much different from the amount of sun you  
9 create out in the desert.

10 We still at the Protect Our Communities  
11 Foundation and our attorneys are looking at the  
12 estimates of impact on wildlife, and all these projects  
13 are kind of interrelated. You know, you got the Tule  
14 Wind thing. You got the ESJ. You got the Solar Two  
15 project out in Imperial Valley. Those are all arteries  
16 to something that's not even needed which is called the  
17 proposed Sunrise Powerlink.

18 I question whether the whole Mexico development  
19 is real. I don't know but I question that. I don't  
20 know if the County and the -- I'm sorry. I'm a little  
21 mixed up.

22 DR. PELL: That's all right.

23 MR. TRAFECANTY: -- that the Department of  
24 Energy is really looking into, is that really a real  
25 project down there or is it just, you know, someone's

1 idea of a project? And will it happen? Let me see.

2 I plead with you to give more consideration  
3 than they are with things that occurred in the last  
4 48 hours where there was not much consideration given to  
5 the environmental impacts at Ivanpah, the environmental  
6 impacts at Solar Two, and I'm hoping you won't do the  
7 same, and the environmental impacts at the proposed  
8 Sunrise Powerlink, which I'm sure you know is under  
9 litigation with the BLM and eventually with the Forest  
10 Service and hopefully with the -- and with the CPUC. So  
11 I wouldn't want something like this being developed to  
12 feed into a power line that might never be built, 'cause  
13 there's going to be a lot of fights about that proposed  
14 Sunrise Powerlink. Thank you very much.

15 DR. PELL: Thank you very much, Denis. I  
16 appreciate that.

17 Before we go on to the next speaker, I should  
18 have mentioned this at the outset, but let me mention it  
19 now while I remember to mention it, this is not a  
20 Department of Energy project nor is it -- correct me if  
21 I'm wrong, but nor is it a County of San Diego project.  
22 This is a private sector enterprise, technically known  
23 as a merchant project. The government has no vested  
24 interest in the outcome of the project or whether it's  
25 constructed or whether it's successful. So I just

1 wanted to note that, that we're completely neutral with  
2 regard to the merits or lack of merits of the project  
3 itself.

4 The next speaker is John, is it Riccio? Is  
5 that correct?

6 MR. JOHN RICCIO: I thought I checked that I  
7 was not going to speak.

8 DR. PELL: Oh, I'm sorry. The box above  
9 speaking wasn't checked at all --

10 MR. RICCIO: Okay. I'm sorry.

11 DR. PELL: -- and was handed to me, so I  
12 assumed you wanted to make some remarks.

13 You do not want to make some remarks?

14 MR. RICCIO: No. I'm sorry. Just here to  
15 observe.

16 DR. PELL: We'll mark you as a no.

17 MR. RICCIO: Thank you.

18 DR. PELL: Okay. Is there anybody in the group  
19 that would like to speak? Because we do have some time  
20 and I want to make sure that everybody has a chance to  
21 tell us what you think. This is the last of three  
22 hearings, so if you have some issues you want to share  
23 with us, that's why we're here.

24 MR. COFFEY: I wouldn't mind supplementing my  
25 statement just with a couple of points about --

1 DR. PELL: Sure.

2 MR. COFFEY: -- the amount of offset.

3 DR. PELL: Tell us your name again for the  
4 record.

5 MR. COFFEY: Again, I'm Daniel Coffey for the  
6 record.

7 Something that I didn't raise in my earlier  
8 comments but I'd like to point out is that the build-out  
9 of the project in Mexico is in Mexico because that's  
10 where the wind is, and one of the sort of strange  
11 changes in the way that people have to think about  
12 energy is that you can't go mine it in the ground  
13 anymore. It's going to be adapted to. You have to go  
14 where it is.

15 So there happen to be structures in Mexico,  
16 mountains and that sort of thing, that provide adequate  
17 wind supplies. You can't change that position. So the  
18 notion that you can't build transmission to where the  
19 wind is is just completely contrary to the basic idea of  
20 adapting to renewable energy, wind and solar. It would  
21 be like putting a solar plant on the North Pole. Well,  
22 what's the point? There's not much sun there. So you  
23 have to go where it is.

24 The second point is, is that this project has  
25 been delayed for years. And as part of a column that I

1 wrote, I decided I would do a calculation of how much  
2 carbon is put in the atmosphere every month of delay if  
3 you were to assume this were built out, and it turns out  
4 to be a gigantic number. Now, my estimates were  
5 something in the neighborhood of a billion pounds of CO2  
6 a month. That --

7 DR. PELL: From what?

8 MR. COFFEY: From not building this project.  
9 In other words, to take the power from this project and  
10 replace it with something based on a carbon-based coal  
11 or whatever you want to call it, you would produce  
12 roughly a billion pounds a month.

13 DR. PELL: Now, is that assuming full build-out  
14 or is that just assuming Phase 1?

15 MR. COFFEY: That's assuming full build-out.

16 DR. PELL: For the full 1,250?

17 MR. COFFEY: Right. But the point is, is that  
18 if you delay it a month or three or two years now,  
19 that's a huge amount of carbon that got put into the  
20 atmosphere that didn't need to.

21 And I've called in other meetings upon people  
22 who are opposing projects like this to justify their  
23 opposition based on the balance between what they're not  
24 putting in the atmosphere -- or what they are putting in  
25 the atmosphere by delaying these projects, because if

1 you're really just going to get there but you're going  
2 to get there five years late because everybody wants to  
3 complain about it, that's a huge environmental cost that  
4 isn't being figured in, and it's due to people  
5 objecting.

6 If you're really never going to build it,  
7 that's a different matter altogether, but the reality is  
8 as climate change tells us, we have to build these  
9 things and get out of the carbon business. So it's not  
10 like we have an alternative path or a choice.

11 And the other part of it is we don't have that  
12 many choices when it comes to renewable energy. There's  
13 geothermal, solar, wind. There just aren't that many.  
14 I mean, there's nuclear. There's a couple of others,  
15 but the basic idea is there isn't a panoply of choices.  
16 And so you have to build where it is, you have to build  
17 what you've got, and you have to do it soon because time  
18 is really not on our side. Thank you.

19 DR. PELL: Thank you. Actually, just as a  
20 matter of observation, as you know, the administration  
21 does support renewables, and one of the major reasons it  
22 does is simply because of the carbon issue with regard  
23 to global climate change.

24 And as was just noted, it is a fact that the  
25 greatest problem with renewables is the energy source is

1 not necessarily where the people are that want and need  
2 the energy; and access between the source and the market  
3 for the energy, the transmission linkage, is one of the  
4 great hurdles to overcome in order to become more  
5 dependent on renewable energy, and that's an observation  
6 that pertains to the entire country, not specifically to  
7 the Southwest, and it's an issue that arises on almost  
8 every renewable energy project that you will read about  
9 or hear about in the news. It's a continually recurring  
10 issue, and I regret to say there are no easy solutions.  
11 If there were, hopefully we would know about them by  
12 now.

13 Yes, sir.

14 MR. THOMPSON: My name is Robert Thompson. I'm  
15 a developer, wind energy developer, and those statements  
16 would be true if it was true that that is the only place  
17 there is wind; but I am involved in a development now in  
18 the southeastern or eastern county of San Diego, and you  
19 know, we're ready, willing, and able to provide power  
20 and we're fairly close to a substation, a 230-kilovolt  
21 substation.

22 So that if SDG&E and Sempra Energy were really  
23 interested, they would be cooperating more fully with  
24 the local developers rather than chasing down these, you  
25 know, out-of-the-country resources that don't have any

1 of the hurdles that local developers have to go through  
2 and including we would be providing local jobs and  
3 dealing with local businesses. Thank you.

4 DR. PELL: Let me just ask you before you sit  
5 down, you say you're a local wind developer.

6 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

7 DR. PELL: There are a number of independently  
8 developed wind projects either under construction or  
9 proposed in the country. In fact, Iberdrola, if I'm not  
10 mistaken, is a Spanish company.

11 What's preventing you from going forward with  
12 the wind project that you're familiar with?

13 MR. THOMPSON: Well, it would certainly help if  
14 we had some power purchase agreements available from  
15 SDG&E. And in order to even look at those, we have to  
16 put up \$250,000 and simply to be told that there's  
17 nothing available.

18 In the meantime, suddenly there's a great  
19 demand for power from south of the border. And I  
20 realize they must have massive investments down there  
21 and they're only trying to support their massive  
22 investments, but, by the same token, we are in  
23 Southern California and we are trying to do business in  
24 Southern California.

25 DR. PELL: Tell me about that \$250,000.



1 That would be paid to whom?

2 MR. THOMPSON: The California Independent  
3 System Operators.

4 DR. PELL: Cal ISO?

5 MR. BROWN: That's for generation  
6 interconnection agreements.

7 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, and that's just your  
8 application fee, period.

9 MR. SMITH: Upfront.

10 DR. PELL: Thank you.

11 Who else would like to speak, anybody? Sir?

12 MR. TRAFECANTY: Denis Trafecanty again. I  
13 just want to comment that -- I want to repeat something  
14 I said already. San Diego Smart Energy Plan, 2020 Plan,  
15 doesn't require additional transmission lines at  
16 \$2 billion or another billion dollars of these artery  
17 lines which is ESJ, Tule Wind, Stirling Solar, and we  
18 will have sufficient energy, just like I do on my roof.  
19 I have energy and I contribute energy to the grid  
20 without getting paid for it.

21 And there is a trend. I don't know if you  
22 listen to the radio. I don't watch TV much, but I sure  
23 hear a lot of ads and there's a lot of companies out  
24 there that are fighting the utilities and saying to the  
25 consumers by advertising that "We can put solar on your

1 roof for nothing or you can buy it yourself and get a  
2 30 percent credit," and so I did that two years ago and  
3 I contribute to the grid with my simple 3.6-kV system.

4 DR. PELL: I'm glad to hear you have a  
5 successful installation. That's encouraging.

6 MR. TRAFECANTY: So I'm going to send you that  
7 Smart Energy Plan. It doesn't have anything about wind  
8 in it. You can't put a big wind turbine in the city  
9 obviously. There's smaller wind turbines. And  
10 utilization of a wind turbine isn't very much, just like  
11 with the utilization of even PV, photovoltaic. It's  
12 probably half a day, but then, of course, I take care of  
13 that by having a storage backup.

14 DR. PELL: What kind of storage do you use?

15 MR. TRAFECANTY: I have 18 batteries and I  
16 don't have to use them at night because my system is  
17 tied to the grid to maintain the rebate, but if the grid  
18 went down I would have lights. It would supply me  
19 lights all evening long, and then the next day the  
20 system would power up the batteries.

21 DR. PELL: Routinely when the solar cells are  
22 not receiving enough light to generate power, you're  
23 taking power off the grid; is that correct?

24 MR. TRAFECANTY: Yeah, but my net is a  
25 contribution to the grid. I could show you our annual

1 statements. We get a bill once a year for \$56, which is  
2 I think the transmission hookup cost, \$5 times 12  
3 months, something like that or something, and there's  
4 more and more people doing it.

5 And I just want to state also that those  
6 figures, for guys like me and my wife, they don't even  
7 get counted in the amount of renewable generation that's  
8 being generated, 'cause you have to be a bigger system  
9 for your numbers to be reflected anywhere.

10 It's coming. The technology's there. It  
11 doesn't require massive solar or wind in the desert. I  
12 mean, we were talking about geothermal 25 years ago when  
13 they built the Southwest Powerlink, that they were going  
14 to fill it up with that energy and they got like  
15 60 megawatts on it, on that line. It isn't much. And,  
16 yeah, they're saying they're going to do half the  
17 Salton Sea and all these projects are going on.

18 Heck, up in the Sierras they were going to put  
19 wind energy all across the dry Owens Lake, DWP was, and  
20 they finally made an announcement the other day or  
21 couple months ago that "Well, it's too muddy out there.  
22 We can't do it, so we might build it on the side of the  
23 lake." Some of these projects, I don't even think  
24 they're giving much thought to how they're going to  
25 develop them. That's a big project, DWP, and they had

1 to back off what they were saying to the people up in  
2 Bishop.

3 DR. PELL: DWP stands for?

4 MR. TRAFECANTY: Department of Water and Power.

5 DR. PELL: Oh, okay.

6 MR. TRAFECANTY: It's a municipal utility in  
7 the L.A. area.

8 So I contend and I'm going to repeat it because  
9 this gentleman back here, I know he's very much in favor  
10 of the Sunrise Powerlink -- I read his articles -- and  
11 all I'm telling you is that we can do without all these  
12 projects and put, just like Kyocera does -- you should  
13 see the Kyocera facility. They've got it on their  
14 parking lot rooftops, shade for the employees' cars on  
15 the buildings. Qualcomm's doing it and UCSD's doing it  
16 and San Diego State University's doing it, and  
17 everybody's going to be doing it. That's where the  
18 technology is.

19 DR. PELL: We're adding solar cells to the  
20 White House.

21 MR. TRAFECANTY: Yeah, and that was an  
22 embarrassment for the White House because initially they  
23 weren't even going to do it, and they got embarrassed so  
24 badly by it that they changed their minds. I read those  
25 articles. So, yeah, we're all going to have to change

1 our minds on this.

2 You know, in Japan people put -- this is a  
3 funny story. People put solar panels on their rooftops  
4 that aren't even hooked up to anything because it's a  
5 status symbol to have panels. Some people that can't  
6 afford to put the whole thing together, they still put  
7 panels up to -- and that's what -- it's socially more  
8 acceptable and it's going to be more and more  
9 acceptable.

10 And I think condo associations and developers  
11 are going to be given a lot of heat. The County should  
12 do that. They shouldn't let them build power, you know,  
13 big huge houses or buildings without putting your own  
14 solar on the roof. It's something that's real simple.  
15 I think it's going to happen.

16 And this is like the Edsel, this proposed  
17 Sunrise Powerlink. It's something that is going to make  
18 a lot of money for SDG&E, 'cause they get paid 11 or  
19 12 percent on the project, but it's really not what we  
20 need. The rules need to change at the CPUC.

21 DR. PELL: Okay. Thank you so much.

22 Did you want to speak?

23 MR. DAVID EDICK: I would like to.

24 DR. PELL: Please.

25 MR. EDICK: My name is David Edick. That's

1 E-d-i-c-k. I have no connection with this project other  
2 than the fact that I live in the county. I do have a  
3 considerable amount of energy background  
4 internationally. I study the issue and advise groups on  
5 it quite often.

6 From the specifics of this hearing, I think the  
7 research on the environmental side is significant. I  
8 would suggest following through with I think it was the  
9 Sierra Club representative -- no, it was the Audubon  
10 Society representative about improved data sharing on  
11 methodology. I think that's worthwhile.

12 Going outside the scope of the hearing as far  
13 as the issue of renewable energy, the State of  
14 California has decided that there's a mandate for  
15 renewable energy as a percentage of the total demand in  
16 the state. We're going to supply a certain percentage  
17 from renewable sources.

18 In effect, they are telling us as consumers and  
19 producers in a way how we're going to produce energy,  
20 how we're going to supply ourselves, and so we've got  
21 this strange race for wind, for example, projects that  
22 are not really thought through. We have this  
23 pie-in-the-sky chase for solar and a technology that is  
24 still 20 or 30 years away in terms of being  
25 cost-effective on a grand scale, on a statewide scale.

1 I support the development of the technology, but it's  
2 got to be paid for. Somebody's got to pay for the  
3 subsidies.

4 I think that the connection to the Mexican  
5 project is a good one. If California has a mandate to  
6 supply renewable energy to its consumers, so be it.  
7 Okay. Where are we going to get it? It's a big  
8 project.

9 I do appreciate the detail that goes into this  
10 hearing and to the environmental study. I got to tell  
11 you, around the world it's not done like this.  
12 Everybody gets a chance to speak their mind, and I think  
13 that's pretty cool. But we've made a decision at the  
14 State level that renewable energy, we've got to do a  
15 certain percentage of it and I think that that was, to  
16 be honest, an ill-considered decision because the costs  
17 of that decision were not adequately weighed.

18 I support the technology. I support the  
19 development. I also support careful consideration of  
20 the costs involved as we travel down a very interesting  
21 road here. Good luck to us all. Thank you.

22 DR. PELL: Thank you.

23 Kevin?

24 MR. SMITH: And an interesting add to actually  
25 both of their comments. He gets a bill of \$56 a year

1 for the transmission hookup, and I congratulate you, by  
2 the way. I think you're doing a stellar job. That  
3 won't be available anymore since we're going to spend  
4 \$588 per customer, per customer. That means every one  
5 of SDG&E's customers is spending \$588 to do the  
6 Powerlink, the Sunrise Powerlink alone. That's just  
7 getting scary. That's a lot of money for each customer  
8 to take on especially when they're supposed to get a  
9 bill of \$56 for a hookup charge. That will go away.

10 If we are really serious about renewables, why  
11 aren't we buying \$588 worth of panels that dropped to  
12 under a dollar a watt now? The numbers have come down  
13 tremendously on solar.

14 The interconnects for wind are insultingly  
15 cruel when you want to ask how much power is available  
16 on that grid. It's a simple question. They already  
17 know the answer, but they want a quarter of a million  
18 dollars to tell you, to study the interconnect. It's  
19 ridiculous. It's just to keep anybody out, anybody out.

20 There's one part in this where you talk about,  
21 on your EIR, just to get back to the facts, on  
22 page 4.9-7, you talk about 13.3 miles running west. I  
23 assume that's the line that runs parallel to the border  
24 under the south link. I thought that was not part of  
25 this EIR.



1 MR. ALBERTO ABREU: What page is that?

2 MR. SMITH: 14.9 -- 4.9-7, in Chapter 4.

3 DR. PELL: I just want to -- Jane, that was  
4 Alberto Abreu.

5 MR. ABREU: Sorry.

6 MR. SMITH: Doesn't this EIR end at the ECO  
7 Substation?

8 MR. BROWN: Give me a page number, Kevin,  
9 please, on the bottom.

10 MR. SMITH: It's Chapter 4. It's 4.9-7.

11 DR. PELL: What's the page number on the bottom  
12 of the page?

13 MR. SMITH: You know what? Mine's blank. This  
14 is an August '09. So you dated them --

15 MR. BROWN: That's a copy you got.

16 MR. SMITH: So basically -- well, it's in the  
17 description of the 138-kV line, so if you could find  
18 that in the Sunrise Powerlink loop-in.

19 MS. MEGAN SCHWARTZ: Are you referring to a  
20 Sunrise Powerlink document?

21 MR. SMITH: Yeah.

22 MS. SCHWARTZ: That's not this document.

23 MR. SMITH: That's not?

24 MS. SCHWARTZ: No. That's a different EIR.

25 MR. SMITH: Well, I'm not reading that

1 document. I know but --

2 DR. PELL: Maybe we should consider that after  
3 the formal part of the hearing.

4 MR. SMITH: There you go. I thought we were  
5 just in the open session, so ....

6 DR. PELL: Anybody else before we adjourn?

7 MR. COFFEY: Could I just say one last thing?

8 DR. PELL: Sure.

9 MR. COFFEY: There is a lot of discussion that  
10 goes on with that much actual math, and my background's  
11 chemical engineering so I've spent a lot of time doing  
12 math calculations to tell myself the answer to questions  
13 that I didn't necessarily know the answer to when I  
14 started.

15 And I've read a lot of what other people do,  
16 and there's a guy at Cal Tech who's done an estimate of  
17 how much energy would we need to produce by way of  
18 renewable and noncarbon-based systems, and he calls it  
19 something in the neighborhood of 10 terawatts worldwide.

20 So in this country we utilize something between  
21 100, roughly average about 100 tera BTU -- I'm sorry --  
22 10 to the 16th BTU and it will require us to build every  
23 conceivable kind of renewable energy system known to man  
24 and a huge amount of it in order to meet the current  
25 state of the energy demands that we have in this country

1 and in the world. And that's not even counting growth.

2 So the notion that we can just say, "Oh, well,  
3 we like this system but not that system or we want to  
4 cherry-pick something," that is gone. That whole  
5 concept is gone, and it grew up around a time when you  
6 could burn coal and get a lot of energy or burn oil and  
7 get a lot of energy. Now you have highly diffuse energy  
8 systems that we're tapping into and we're going to need  
9 a huge number of them in order to sustain a quality of  
10 life, be able to pump water, to do all the kinds of  
11 things that we just take for granted at the moment.

12 And it will require us to cut back 80 percent.  
13 We'll have to produce 20 percent of our energy from  
14 carbon-based systems and 80 percent from other systems  
15 including renewable, and right now we only produce  
16 2 percent for renewable.

17 So the notion that, you know, Mr. Trafecanty  
18 can say, "Oh, we don't need this," we need it all,  
19 unfortunately. And I think it does no good service to  
20 suggest or to even go along with the idea that we don't  
21 need it all, because it's not energy dense. It's going  
22 to require a lot of infrastructure. We're going to have  
23 to build it while the cost is cheap and work hard  
24 together to get this thing done, because just argument  
25 is no longer the answer. So thank you. That's my truly

1 last comment.

2 DR. PELL: Thank you. You'll notice that DOE  
3 does support the wide spectrum of technologies.

4 Is that it? Nobody else? Going once, going  
5 twice, last chance.

6 I want to thank you all for coming out tonight.  
7 I think we've had a very rewarding and valuable evening  
8 and really appreciate being able to meet you in person.  
9 On that note, let the record show the meeting is  
10 adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

11 (The proceedings were concluded at 6:31 p.m.)

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