



## COMITÉ CÍVICO DEL VALLE

INFORMED PEOPLE BUILD HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

[www.ccvhealth.org](http://www.ccvhealth.org)

May 27, 2011

The Honorable Jerry Brown  
Governor of California  
State Capitol, Building, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

Comité Cívico del Valle is a grassroots environmental justice organization located in Imperial County. We were founded by a retired farmworker in 1987 to help other farmworkers. As we have grown, our focus has expanded to serve the needs of underserved Imperial County residents. With our work on clean air, environmental health and related issues, we are working to fulfill our mission to improve the living conditions of our community through education, capacity building and civic participation. Our motto is that informed people create healthy communities.

We write today to ask for your help to protect green jobs in Imperial County by preventing Sempra Energy from building the proposed Energia Sierra Juarez (ESJ) cross-border transmission line.

Imperial County is a rural disadvantaged, largely Latino community suffering from 29% unemployment. According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2008, one in five residents lived below the poverty line. Our community suffers from environmental injustices such as severe air pollution and illegal trash dumping. Fortunately, our region is also rich in renewable energy resources including solar, wind and geothermal and is close to existing transmission lines. Residents are hopeful we can rebuild our local economy by becoming California's new renewable energy capital and create desperately-needed green jobs.

Unfortunately, Sempra's ESJ cross-border transmission proposal jeopardizes this bright future because it would allow energy from Mexico to be imported onto Southern California's electricity grid, displacing energy that instead could come from green energy projects built here in Imperial County. This move to export jobs, particularly over the border where environmental standards are weaker, is the wrong direction at a time when we need to put Californians back to work.

Comité Cívico del Valle appreciates your leadership on renewable energy and your vision to create jobs through a vibrant clean energy economy. Sempra's ESJ cross-border transmission line would undermine this effort. We ask for your help today to protect green jobs and stop this flawed proposal.

Sincerely,

Jose Luis Olmedo  
Executive Director

CC: Secretary Steven Chu, Department of Energy  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer

Congressman Bob Filner  
California State Senator Juan Vargas  
California Assembly Member Manuel V. Perez  
Anthony J. Como , Director of Permitting and Siting for DOE