



## DIANNE JACOB

CHAIRWOMAN, SECOND DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

December 4, 2009

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Mr. William Metz, Forest Supervisor  
Cleveland National Forest  
10845 Rancho Bernardo Rd. Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92127

Dear Supervisor Metz:

Thank you again for arranging my recent tour of areas of the Cleveland National Forest with Ranger Owen Martin. I sincerely appreciated the opportunity to visit one of my favorite areas of my district and see firsthand the proposed footprint of San Diego Gas and Electric's Sunrise Powerlink project. Ranger Martin is a wonderful and knowledgeable ambassador to the forest.

As you continue to analyze the impacts of the massive line on the forest, I respectfully urge you to consider the wildfire dangers posed by the line. I call to your attention to the Fire and Fuels Management Section of the Environmental Impact Report on page D.15-69. The information detailed in this section is of great concern because it clearly states that the project's fire dangers cannot be mitigated.

Firefighting aircraft cannot make effective water drops over a 500 kV line in high wind conditions. Ground attacks cannot be made within 500 feet of a power line conductor. This is a firefighting rule of thumb noted in the EIR. Indeed, during the 2007 Harris Fire, the existing 500 kilovolt Southwest Powerline had to be shut down to protect the safety of firefighters.

In addition, I've attached a copy of a recent letter from the County's Department of Planning and Land Use to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). County staff has raised concerns with the CPUC because proposed fly yards, helipads, access roads and use of groundwater for the project were not analyzed in the EIR. As you well know, proceeding with a component of a project that has not been analyzed is a violation of the California Environmental Quality Act. I am hopeful this information may be useful to you as you weigh your decision.

The EIR clearly showed this line is not needed and there are cheaper and less destructive ways to meet our region's future energy needs. Energy experts have testified that investigating "in-basin" generation is a far more reliable strategy to meet future energy demand.

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In basin generation, coupled with support for local solar and conservation programs, is far preferable to an expensive and destructive transmission line.

I very strongly urge your opposition to the line. If I can be of additional assistance, please contact me, or Jennifer Stone of my staff at (619) 531-5522, or via my website at [www.diannejacob.com](http://www.diannejacob.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dianne Jacob". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D".

DIANNE JACOB

Chairwoman, Second District

Attachment

DJ:js