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News Release

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New Report Outlines Reliable, Comprehensive Energy Strategy for San Diego Region

Report Presents Road Map to Meeting San Diego Region's Future Energy Needs Using Clean, Local Power Generation

SAN DIEGO, CA – Today, E-Tech, International released a road map outlining how San Diego can free itself from imported fossil-fuels and become California's leader in clean, local energy independence. This report entitled "*San Diego Smart Energy 2020: The 21st Century Alternative*" was unveiled by author, Bill Powers, P.E., a professional engineer with 25 years experience in the energy and environmental fields, in conjunction with support from several elected officials.

Speakers included Zachary Schlagel, Community Representative speaking on behalf of Congressman Bob Filner, United States House of Representatives, Congressional District 51; Assembly Member Lori Saldaña, California State Assembly, District 76; a statement read on behalf of Imperial County Supervisor, Joe Maruca, District 3; San Diego City Council Member Donna Frye, District 6 and Leo Miras, Policy Advocate for the Environmental Health Coalition.

In response to the report, Congressman Bob Filner commented, "In order to solve escalating climate change challenges, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and preserve natural areas, we must be willing to move in a new direction, towards energy efficiency and emissions reductions. The "*San Diego Smart Energy 2020*" plan provides a practical strategy for facing these issues of global warming and energy security, and demonstrates our community's commitment to protecting our environment."

As noted by Assembly Member Lori Saldaña, "This proposal better reflects the state's new approach to the environment - one that has sparked national debate on energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It allows more local generation. It encourages more individuals and businesses to become participants in building our energy infrastructure by contributing to the grid and reducing consumption. It recognizes the value of locally created energy plans and strengthens the viability of renewable energy in our region. Most importantly, it does this without damaging an irreplaceable public asset - the wild areas of Anza-

Borrego Desert State Park. For all these reasons, I support this proposal since it reflects good stewardship of the environment and respect for our public resources.”

Imperial County Supervisor Joe Maruca commented, “This report provides an alternative energy roadmap to the proposed Sunrise Powerlink, which will afford a convenient opportunity for more power to be imported into the United States from the Mexicali region. Future Mexicali power plants will not be required to meet the standards of this country. This report outlines a reliable, clean alternative. At this critical energy crossroad, the air quality of our region and our children’s health depend upon our courage as local leaders to make the right energy decision.”

San Diego City Council Member Donna Frye stated, “With more than 300 days of sunshine per year, we have tremendous opportunities here in the San Diego region to be the most cutting-edge “green” area in the nation. That’s why we need alternative plans that are well researched and environmentally sound to preserve our quality of life in the San Diego region.”

The report’s author, Bill Powers, P.E., commented on the long-term implications of today’s recommendations. “San Diego is at a crossroads about its energy future. California has been recognized worldwide for our cutting edge legislation, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which calls for a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and an 80 percent reduction by 2050. We have excellent energy policy guidelines, including California’s Energy Action Plan and San Diego’s Regional Energy Strategy 2030. Yet the specific energy infrastructure decision being proposed, in this case spending \$7 billion to build the Sunrise Powerlink, is not at all consistent with the cutting edge greenhouse gas legislation or the excellent strategic energy policy guidelines we have. These guidelines put the primary emphasis on energy efficiency, clean local renewables and highly efficient combined heat and power generation.”

Leo Miras, Policy Advocate for the Environmental Health Coalition applauded the economic and environmental strengths of “*San Diego Smart Energy 2020: The 21st Century Alternative.*” He noted, “This effort builds on the work of previous reports by Environmental Health Coalition and by the Renewable Energy Study Group and sets a clear “green print” for achieving a cleaner, more sustainable energy system for San Diego. Implementing this plan will be an important part of sustaining our region’s economy and environment using our abundant indigenous resource—sunshine. It will also contribute to meeting requirements expected under AB32, the state law to reduce climate change. We need a new strategy for meeting our energy needs, and this report provides excellent direction for the region.”

Sierra Club’s “San Diego Smart Energy Solutions” Conservation Organizer, Micah Mitrosky commented, “This report proves there are smarter ways for San Diego to meet its energy needs. SDG&E and Sempra’s plan would lock this region into long-term dependence on fossil-fuels from overseas, which is exactly what we will get with Sunrise Powerlink. Not to mention ratepayers will pay to build it and SDG&E has not even proven that we need it.”

Terry Weiner, Conservation Coordinator for the Desert Protective Council, noted in a written statement, “Our deserts are not empty wastelands suitable for power lines and solar farms. Our deserts provide a vital home for unique plants and wildlife, and spirit-reviving open space for the human soul. We should put solar panels on every roof and parking lot in the Southwest before we build more power lines or solar farms in this delicate landscape. Southern California needs a sensible, forward-looking energy policy, and that’s what this alternative provides.”

Diana Lindsay, Vice-President of Environmental Affairs for the Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute issued a statement noting, “This report contains important information that in many cases appears to refute SDG&E’s arguments for the need for the Sunrise Powerlink. We encourage all stakeholders to carefully study the report when weighing pros and cons.”

Joe Rauh, Co-Director of Community Alliance for Sensible Energy (CASE) agreed in an issued statement, "Backcountry residents have been fighting the Sunrise Powerlink for almost two years, because of the harm it would do to our communities. We are excited about the alternative energy options offered in Bill Power's report. Being proactive is a definitive step in securing San Diego's energy future. Hopefully, SDG&E, the California Public Utilities Commission, our local leaders and the Governor will embrace these positive options for energy reliability and a shift from reliance on fossil fuels."

In response to the report release, Diane Conklin, Coordinator, Communities United for Sensible Power (CUSP) commented, "Communities know that local, renewable, sustainable alternative energy is the key to the region's energy independence and a healthy world for our children and their children. The desire for real change is not grounded in a corporate strategy designed to do business as usual. It is as real as the hotter temperatures and extended drought we have faced since 1999 in Southern California. Solar energy distributed on every rooftop in San Diego County would go a long way to make energy work for everybody."

The report outlines key recommendations to achieving reliable, renewable energy independence. These include:

- Realigning SDG&E financial incentives to match California *Energy Action Plan* priorities
- Achieving absolute reduction of 20 percent in annual energy consumption by 2020
- Achieving absolute reduction of 25 percent in peak demand by 2020
- Achieving 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from power generation by 2020 through use of local PV and CHP distributed generation
- Prioritizing modernization of the 1950s vintage electrical distribution system to maximize potential of smart grid technology
- Assuring new construction in San Diego incorporates state-of-the-art green building principles and sufficient rooftop solar to meet own electricity demand

The Sunrise Powerlink project is a proposed 150-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line that would slice across the face of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the Cleveland National Forest and the backyards of local residents. The costs are expected to exceed \$1.3 billion and would be borne by SDG&E ratepayers.

E-Tech, International is a New Mexico-based technical consulting non-profit composed of scientists, engineers, attorneys, and academics. The organization specializes in evaluations of large-scale infrastructure projects worldwide with an emphasis on assuring these projects protect public health and promote sustainability.

Bill Powers, P.E., has authored numerous technical reports on a variety of energy-related topics, including gas turbine air emission controls, power plant cooling systems, integrating strategic energy and environmental planning in the California – Baja California border region, and use of integrated gasification combined cycle power generation to facilitate carbon dioxide capture and sequestration in Midwestern coal-burning states. He received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Duke University and Masters of Public Health – Environmental Sciences from the University of North Carolina. Mr. Powers has been a registered professional engineer in California since 1986.

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