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8304 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite 101
858-569-0294 fax 858-569-0968
www.sdsmartenergy.org

News Release

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CONTACT: Micah Mitrosky, 858-569-0294
858-386-8573 cell

Proposed Alternate Decision for Sunrise Powerlink Threatens State Global Warming Goals

Commission President Michael Peevey seeks to eliminate clean energy guarantee for SDG&E's Sunrise Powerlink

SAN DIEGO, *Calif.* – In a proposed alternate decision released today, California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) president Michael Peevey seeks to eliminate a clean energy provision proposed by fellow commissioner Dian Grueneich. Her proposal would require San Diego Gas & Electric to contract for and deliver substantial amounts of renewable energy as a condition for approval for the controversial Sunrise Powerlink transmission line.

Micah Mitrosky, Conservation Organizer for the Sierra Club's San Diego Smart Energy Solutions Campaign said, "On the same day Governor Schwarzenegger opened an international climate change summit, Commissioner Peevey has released a proposal that would eliminate a clean energy guarantee designed to safeguard California's global warming goals. This proposed decision tosses aside the best tool California has to make sure that SDG&E fulfills its renewable energy promises."

Current state requirements have failed to push SDG&E to improve its dismal record on delivering renewable energy to its customers. Currently, SDG&E is last in line behind all other investor owned utilities in providing renewable energy in its portfolio. Without an enforceable renewable energy provision, there is no way to hold SDG&E accountable that a new line is filled with clean power.

"When it comes to renewable energy, the CPUC should not let SDG&E get away with saying 'trust us'. A simple and enforceable clean energy guarantee is doable and needed because SDG&E lags behind other major California utilities in delivering renewable energy," said Mitrosky.

The Sunrise Powerlink is SDG&E's proposed 150-mile, high voltage transmission line that would slice across the face of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the Cleveland National Forest, protected preserves and local communities. Expert analysis reveals Sunrise Powerlink is designed to transport dirty fossil-fueled energy that increases polluting greenhouse gases. Clean, reliable alternatives to the harmful Sunrise Powerlink have been proposed, including the *San Diego Smart Energy 2020* proposal.

The Sierra Club is a nonprofit advocacy organization whose mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth

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