



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
for the sunrise powerlink

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February 10, 2010

Mr. Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Subject: Sunrise Powerlink United States Forest Service Approval

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

As co-chairs of the Community Alliance for the Sunrise Powerlink (CASP), we want to express our steadfast support for the Sunrise Powerlink transmission project. For more than five years, we have been working to gain the necessary approvals to have this essential transmission line connect San Diego to the vast renewable energy resources in the Imperial Valley.

As business, civic and labor leaders, we are deeply invested and care about San Diego's quality of life, as well as our economic and energy future. The Sunrise Powerlink will help ensure San Diego has a reliable supply of clean renewable electricity. Furthermore, Sunrise will help to meet state and federal renewable energy goals.

We encourage you to take an active role in the United States Forest Service approval of its Record of Decision and Forest Plan Amendment for the Sunrise Powerlink. The USFS, San Diego Gas & Electric and other agencies have conducted exhaustive analysis of the impacts to the Cleveland National Forest. The USFS must issue the approvals for the project to proceed.

The Sunrise Powerlink is vital to our clean energy future. It will reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions currently generated by old and inefficient fossil fuel generators in San Diego. It will also enable the development of wind, geothermal and the largest solar energy generating facility in the world. These renewable projects will create new green jobs and economic development for the San Diego and Imperial counties region.

CASP was founded in July 2006 to raise awareness and promote the importance of the Sunrise Powerlink. Many of us attended and testified at the California Public Utilities Commission hearing on December 18,



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2008 when the project was approved. It has been over a year since approval by the CPUC and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management of the project, and it is now time to move forward into construction.

The Sunrise Powerlink is the most studied infrastructure project in California's history, with the approval process now exceeding four years. It is critical that the U.S. Forest Service swiftly approves the ROD and Forest Plan Amendment.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Julie Meier Wright
President & CEO
San Diego Regional
Economic Development Corporation



Ruben Barrales
President & CEO
San Diego Regional
Chamber of Commerce



Lorena Gonzalez
Secretary-Treasurer
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CC: Ken Salazar, Secretary of Interior
Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy

