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June 21, 2010

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William Metz  
Forest Supervisor  
U.S. Department of Agriculture-Cleveland National Forrest  
10845 Rancho Bernardo Road, Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92127

Dear William:

I am writing you first, to thank you for not rushing to make a decision on the Desert Deathlink and its route through our Cleveland National Forest. Secondly, once again, I am asking that you reject this unnecessary and destructive project. A Supplemental Information Report is wholly inadequate for the unstudied impacts and major changes to the project since it was approved, as evidenced by the May 2010 Final Project Modification Report. A new, independent, and thorough NEPA review is required.

For the record, I want to incorporate by reference several of the previous letters I have written regarding the negative impacts of SDG&E's unnecessary \$1.9 billion Desert Deathlink:

- 1) **July 24, 2009: Letter to Forest Supervisor Metz**, requesting your rejection of the Desert Deathlink, an independent NEPA analysis, and the related SDG&E Master Permit compliant with all applicable laws and regulations, that considers the legitimate and viable alternatives to construction of the Deathlink. Alternative examples were provided.
- 2) **July 29, 2009: Letters to Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack and Secretary of Interior Salazar**, expressing my opposition to the Desert Deathlink due to its negative impacts on nature and people, including a significant increased threat of wildfire ignition. Requests were made that were similar to those made in my July 24th letter addressed to you.
- 3) **April 13, 2010: Letter to Secretary Salazar**, requesting assurances that the BLM be free from any pressure to short-circuit or fast-track the NEPA process for the SDG&E Powerlink, that a thorough and complete NEPA analysis be conducted of the current Powerlink route and its impacts on federal lands. I also asked for assurance that the USFWS conduct a new, thorough, and complete biological opinion with regards to the threatened and endangered species that would be impacted along the Southern Route.

**Here are my current requests for you, and the US Forest Service:**

- Reject the Desert Deathlink outright.
- Deny the Special Use Permit.


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- Deny the stated plan amendments to the Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan that would allow non-conforming uses that would degrade and fragment valued and critical Forest resources and scenic integrity.
- The Forest Service needs to produce the proposed plan amendments rather than just incorrectly point to the FEIR/EIS pages. The referenced information is in the DEIR/EIS not the FEIR/EIS and it states that a "*Supervisor must prepare an amendment.*"
- Provide detailed maps showing exactly where and how the changes for the proposed plan amendments will take place.
- Prepare an independent Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to address previously unaddressed issues and major new project information identified in the Project Modification Report. It must also contain alternatives that do not impact the Forest.
- Update the Biological Opinion that is neither current nor accurate.
- Ensure that full and accurate cultural resource surveys and project impact reviews are conducted in timely consultation with impacted tribal governments.
- Address the Class I significant and immitigable fire threat that Sunrise represents to the drought stricken and fire prone Forest and surrounding communities.
- Address the proposed future expansion route for Sunrise through the Forest (FEIR/EIS Figure E.1.1-6)
- Address cumulative impacts from the West Wide Energy Corridor, and where the Sunrise Route deviates from that corridor, along with other energy project proposals and impacts.

There are better alternatives for producing renewable and other forms of energy closer to the point of use that negate the need for this project and impacts to the Forest, as discussed in my previous letters. Approval of Sunrise would unnecessarily undercut current Forest plans and goals to protect the sensitive natural resources, wildlife, scenic integrity, and road less areas. A major part of that protection is to limit the threat of forest fires which can destroy or dramatically alter the existing viability of the Cleveland National Forest. The increase fire threat alone justifies outright rejection of this unneeded project. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me or John Riccio of my staff at (619) 422-1963.

Sincerely,  
  
BOB FILNER  
Member of Congress

BF/jr  
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Enclosures