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William Metz, Supervisor
Cleveland National Forest
10845 Rancho Bernardo Road, Ste 200
San Diego, CA 92127

Submitted via e-mail: mailroom_r5_cleveland@fs.fed.us

Request to reject Sunrise Powerlink route through the Forest. At a minimum, a full and proper EIS must be conducted for impacts to the Forest, with local public hearings.

Dear Supervisor Metz,

The San Diego Chapter urges you to reject the Sunrise Powerlink outright. There are better, cheaper, and less destructive alternatives available, as represented by the San Diego Smart Energy 2020 report by Bill Powers (http://www.etechninternational.org/new_pdfs/smartenergy/52008_SmE2020_2nd.pdf) that would not destroy precious Cleveland National Forest resources that are held in public trust for current and future generations. The in-basin alternatives would also negate the risk of increased wildfires and the impediment to fire fighting that the Sunrise Powerlink represents. Barring outright rejection, it is imperative that a full and proper Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be drafted as required by NEPA and circulated for public comments. It is imperative that public hearings be held in the impacted communities.

The current flawed FEIR/EIS, the subject of multiple state and federal legal challenges, does not adequately address future expansion plans. The parties to the PUC/BLM review process, including the Sierra Club, documented that the ultimate goal of SDG&E and its parent company, Sempra Energy, is to move power from Mexico / Imperial Valley to Los Angeles. This likely means that SDG&E / Sempra will be looking to run an expansion of the Sunrise Powerlink through other areas of the Cleveland National Forest, including the proposed Eagle Peak Wilderness Areas. These expansion plans must be included in the Forest Service's analysis.

The Sunrise Powerlink Modified Project (PMR) report dated May 14, 2010, contains new information that demonstrates that the FEIR/EIS is alarmingly deficient. According to the PMR, much of the "new information" was gathered *after* the FEIR/EIS was circulated and approved in violation of NEPA, CEQA, and more. Much of the referenced information was not made available for public review and comment. Both NEPA and CEQA require that the deficient FEIR/EIS be supplemented with additional full disclosure environmental review and public comment.

We hereby incorporate previous Chapter comments submitted on impacts to the CNF from the Sunrise Powerlink and any related projects including our letter dated July 20, 2009 that also requested rejection of the Sunrise Powerlink. Thank you for consideration of our request to help

protect and preserve our valued Cleveland National Forest assets for current and future generations of people and nature.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Respectfully Submitted,



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**The San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club is San Diego's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization, founded in 1948. Encompassing San Diego and Imperial Counties, the San Diego Chapter seeks to preserve the special nature of the San Diego and Imperial Valley area through education, activism, and advocacy. The Chapter has over 14,000 members. The National Sierra Club has over 700,000 members in 65 Chapters in all 50 states, and Puerto Rico.**

