



September 23, 2026

Golden Pacific Powerlink Project Team

SDG&E

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Tommy Alexander

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California Public Utilities Commission

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Dear Mr. Alexander and the Golden Pacific Powerlink Project Team:

On behalf of the Under the Sun Foundation and the Candlewood Arts Festival, I submit this letter in strong opposition to the proposed route plans, both the Preliminary and the Montezuma Grade Alternate routes, for the Golden Pacific Powerlink 500 kV transmission line. While we understand that California faces significant challenges meeting its energy demands, we firmly believe that no solution is worth the severe repercussions that these plans would have on the environment, local economic development, and general quality of life in Southern California's rural communities, particularly our community of Borrego Springs.

Under the Sun Foundation is committed to nurturing the connections between art, community, and the environment in the richly diverse community of Borrego Springs. Since 2018, the Foundation has stewarded Galleta Meadows and its free, open-air desert art gallery of over 100 metal sculptures that attracts tourists from near and far. In addition to the ongoing care and maintenance of the sculptures and the Meadows, we organize the annual Candlewood Arts Festival to commission new temporary public art projects to help amplify the unique harmony of cultural and natural treasures that makes this community so special.

The proposed routes for the Powerlink puts Galleta Meadows and our work with artists around the region at tremendous risk. Our friends and colleagues in the community such as the Anza Borrego Foundation, have already expressed catastrophic impact on the remarkable resource that is the Anza Borrego Desert State Park, the largest in California. The Powerlink threatens the our endangered and fragile flora and fauna, increasing risk of

wildfire for already vulnerable ecosystems and communities, and compromising its treasured scenic beauty and pristine dark skies. We are especially troubled by the Montezuma Grade Alternative route that directly traverses Borrego Springs and Galleta Meadows, which would visually and ecologically devastate our landscape and severely infringe on the experience of visitors to our outdoor gallery, not to mention the thousands of people who live in Borrego Springs.

We urge you to consider alternatives to your current plans. Thorough studies of the impact to wilderness, wildlife, cultural resources, tourism, and recreation would reveal that running a powerline through such important conservation areas is not a viable option. Surely there are alternatives to this massive infrastructure project, ones more heavily dependent on more sustainable, locally-based, clean energy sources.

Thank you very much for your consideration. As a passionate supporter of Borrego Springs and the Anza Borrego Desert, we would be happy to speak with you about our concerns should you be interested in further conversation.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kris Kuramitsu', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kris Kuramitsu
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