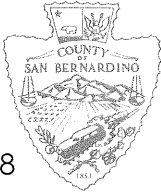


**Board of Supervisors  
County of San Bernardino**

**DENNIS HANSBERGER**  
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT



May 22, 2008

Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa & City Council Members  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N. Spring St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Green Path North Project

Honorable Mayor Villaraigosa & Council Members:

The proposed electrical transmission system referred to as the "Green Path North" (GPN) project by the City of Los Angeles' Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Imperial Irrigation District (IID), Citizens Energy and the Southern California Public Power Authority (SCPPA) will create a path of environmental degradation across our county. While your efforts to provide your residents with green energy are laudable, this project threatens to destroy pristine natural habitat and devalue both public and private land in the County of San Bernardino.

On December 4, 2007, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors opposed GPN as it is currently proposed (see attached resolution). I continue to be concerned about the GPN project and urge you to pursue an alternative which utilizes existing energy corridors. I cannot overemphasize the environmental devastation the GPN project will cause to the Morongo Basin and to the Mojave Desert. Your current proposal shows a complete disregard for our pristine desert and the desert communities of Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley, Pioneertown, Pipes Canyon, Flamingo Heights, Landers, Johnson Valley, and elsewhere in San Bernardino County.

Moreover, the proposed GPN project was initiated and continues to be undertaken not only with a complete disregard for our property, but also without consultation with local residents. The proposed GPN project will have potentially devastating impacts on desert lands, vegetation, wildlife, and local communities; and I urge you abandon the Green Path North project in favor of an alternative that uses existing energy corridors, thus reducing any adverse impacts.

You have moved too far too quickly without the input of those who will be affected most – the residents of our county. In addition, contrary to San Bernardino County's history as a participant in regional and statewide intergovernmental relations, proponents of GPN have made no appreciable attempt at communication or coordination.

Knowledge of LADWP's proposal only became known when local residents discovered survey markers it had placed along the proposed Green Path North route. After first denying their existence then claiming the markers were not placed by LADWP, the entity's General Manager, David Nahai, said that the survey markers were placed to help them avoid wilderness areas. We may live in what you think of as "the sticks," but we are not rubes. We are well aware that avoiding wilderness areas

May 22, 2008

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa & Council Members

Page 2

was not the intent of LADWP. The survey markers indicate the intended Green Path North route, as applied for at the Palm Springs Bureau of Land Management office. Prevention of wildfires is of paramount importance to me. You may know that some of the recent destructive and costly fires in October 2007 were concluded by investigators to have been caused by power lines downed by high winds. As officials entrusted with protecting the public, we have a responsibility to ensure our actions do not unnecessarily jeopardize their safety. I fear the proposed GPN project could do just that.

San Bernardino and Riverside Counties have supported responsible renewable energy programs for decades. Our wind and solar energy efforts have proven quite effective. However, none of these projects have been undertaken without public input and certainly not with adverse affects to our precious natural resources. It is ironic that your efforts to tap into "clean, renewable resources," you will destroy natural resources in the process.

However, there is one other thing you neglected to consider: history.

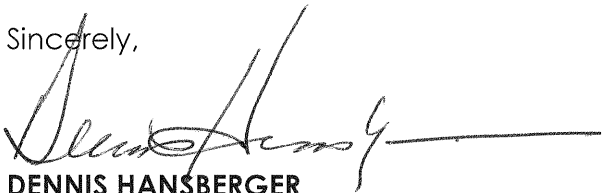
Let us not repeat history, it is essential that you work diligently with all potentially affected communities and that we not repeat mistakes of the past. This is an opportunity for LADWP to determine that it is an environmentally sensitive and respected entity.

I will continue to oppose this environmentally insensitive project and urge you, in the strongest terms, to consider a more appropriate alignment. Instead of spending the time, energy, and money it will take for a protracted struggle, it can all be avoided if you direct your appointees on the LADWP to drop the proposed Green Path North project. I understand that Citizens Energy, initially a major partner in the project, has removed itself from participation. Citizens Energy's financial contribution to Green Path North was expected to be nearly \$200 million. You are losing support for this misguided and environmentally destructive project daily, and the opposition will only grow and intensify.

The City of Los Angeles, the LADWP, IID and the SCPPA should rescind the proposed Green Path North project today, in favor of an alternative that uses the existing energy corridor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



**DENNIS HANSBERGER**

Supervisor, Third District

cc: Commissioner Nick Patsaouras, LADWP  
Commissioner Edith Ramirez, LADWP  
Commissioner Lee Kanon Alpert, LADWP  
Commissioner Wally Knox, LADWP  
Commissioner Forescee Hogan-Rowles, LADWP  
H David Nahai, Chief Executive Officer, LADWP

**RESOLUTION NO. 2007- 367**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO OPPOSING CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH TENSION POWER LINES THROUGH ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS OF THE MORONGO BASIN**

On Tuesday, December 4, 2007, on motion of Supervisor Hansberger, duly seconded by Supervisor Gonzales, and carried, the following resolution is adopted by the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County, State of California.

**WHEREAS**, the County supports the use of renewable resources and encourages programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and also places a high value on protecting and preserving the natural resources of the California desert; and

**WHEREAS**, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is proposing a project called "Green Path North" to construct new high tension power transmission lines for the purpose of attaining alternative energy goals in the Los Angeles region; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the proposed alternatives includes an alignment through the unincorporated county areas of the Morongo Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, evidence now shows that a preferred alignment for the Green Path North proposed project has been pre-determined by the LADWP; such alignment traverses through the western portion of the Morongo Basin, including such areas as Morongo Valley, Pioneertown, Flamingo Heights, and Landers; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed alignment would endanger natural wildlife, sensitive habitat areas and important cultural resources. The Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, for example, is a nature preserve and wildlife corridor that currently serves as a home for numerous native wildlife species, including rare birds, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals, as well as causing substantial impairment to outstanding scenic vistas in the vicinity; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed alignment is likely to have immediate and long-term detrimental impacts on the environment, including the local natural vegetation and wildlife. It would also cause degradation to the economic stability and aesthetic quality of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the local residents of the Morongo Valley and the Morongo Basin will not receive, and have no desire to receive, any benefit or energy savings from this project; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of the area of the proposed alignment for the project have voiced their strong objections against the Green Path North project and their strong desire to support the California Desert Coalition in their opposition to this project; and

**WHEREAS**, other existing energy corridors are available to the LADWP for this project that would not create adverse impacts; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the County of San Bernardino opposes the construction of high tension power lines through environmentally sensitive areas in the Morongo Basin, and recommends that additional power lines be located within existing energy corridors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS: Mitzelfelt, Biane, Hansberger, Gonzales

NOES: SUPERVISORS: None

ABSENT: SUPERVISORS: Ovitt

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO ) ss.

I, **DENA M. SMITH**, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the record of the action taken by the Board of Supervisors, by vote of the members present, as the same appears in the Official Minutes of said Board at its meeting of December 4, 2007. Item# 7 DE

DENA M. SMITH  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By *Dawn*  
Deputy

