The meeting of the Regional Planning Committee (RPC) was called to order by Chair Lori Holt Pfeiler (North County Inland) at 1:40 p.m. She noted that the Shoreline Report and an article from the City of Imperial Beach were mailed as requested at the last meeting. See the attached attendance sheet for Regional Planning Committee member attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Action: Upon a motion by Councilmember Toni Atkins (City of San Diego) and a second by Councilmember Patricia McCoy (South County), the SANDAG Regional Planning Committee approved the minutes from the October 6, 2006, meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT ITEM

3. CALIFORNIA REGIONAL BLUEPRINT PLANNING PROGRAM GRANT RENEWAL APPLICATION (Jane Signago-Cox)

REPORTS

4. ENERGY WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS ON SDG&E’S SUNRISE POWERLINK TRANSMISSION PROJECT (RECOMMEND)

Supervisor Bill Horn (County of San Diego) asked to be excused from the discussion as he owns SDG&E stock, and then he left the room.

Susan Freedman (SANDAG) stated that the Board of Directors requested that the EWG perform an assessment of the Sunrise Powerlink (SPL) Project and provide a recommendation at its November 2006 Board Meeting. Therefore, the EWG was presenting its recommendation to the RPC today to bring forward to the Board later this month.

Ms. Freedman explained the Energy Working Group’s (EWG) role. The purpose of the EWG is to facilitate the implementation of the San Diego Energy Strategy, which was created to
map long-term energy priorities for the San Diego Region, through 2030. The EWG serves as a venue to deliberate San Diego’s energy future.

The SPL is an SDG&E proposal for a 150-mile-long, 500-KV transmission line that will run east to west, from El Centro in Imperial County to northwestern San Diego County. It would create a third major electric transmission corridor into the region. SDG&E states that it is needed to maintain reliability, provide access to renewable energy, and reduce energy costs.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is the lead agency overseeing this application and it released a ruling this week, including a schedule. Important milestones include a needs assessment from its Division of Ratepayer Advocates in March 2007, release of the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in August 2007, final EIR/EIS in November 2007, and final decision on the SPL in January 2008.

The EWG took into account the following during its assessment of the Project:

- Is there a need for additional resources for 2010?
- What are the energy resource options, both transmission and non-transmission?

In addition, the EWG reviewed how each resource option fit within the State’s Preferred Loading Order, which prioritizes conservation and energy efficiency, renewable energy and other clean distributed generation, over conventional fossil-fueled power plants.

The EWG assessment garnered unresolved questions. It discovered that there may be other resource options available that could meet the region’s needs in 2010. The EWG was unclear what amount of renewable generation will be delivered via SPL in 2010 to meet the Regional Strategy and State requirements. Also, SPL in 2010 could hinder the Regional Strategy goal for a certain level of in-region power.

Ms. Freedman then requested that the Regional Planning Committee deliver a recommendation to the Board of Directors at the November 17, 2006, meeting. In the meantime the EWG will continue to track the SPL regulatory proceeding and report back as requested. She then introduced the Honorable Henry Abarbanel, Chairman of the EWG, to deliver the formal recommendation.

Mr. Abarbanel asked that the EWG vote from the meeting conducted November 1, 2006, be noted as 11 ayes. The only dissenting vote was from the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce (SDRCC). He referred to a blue handout, which included the EWG recommendation to the RPC as well as the rationale for the dissenting vote from the SDRCC.

Mr. Abarbanel reported that the EWG Resources Subcommittee found over 20 transmission options, of which two, the SPL and Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumping Station (LEAPS) project, were especially favored. LEAPS could offer transmission into the region from the North. He stated that SANDAG is not an “intervener” in the proceeding at the CPUC, but can express its opinion to the Commissioners. Therefore, he asked on behalf of the EWG that the RPC recommend that the Board of Directors ask the CPUC to review in great detail four specific items:
1. A thorough analysis of the realistic ability of either the Sunrise Powerlink or the LEAPS project or other options to deliver the proposed renewable resources to the San Diego region.

2. A complete analysis of the ability of either project or other resource options consistent with the Regional Energy Strategy to be permitted and constructed by 2010.

3. A thorough comparison of the environmental analysis of the Sunrise Powerlink and LEAPS projects.

4. A thorough discussion of the cost and need analysis of both the Sunrise Powerlink and LEAPS projects.

Finally, the EWG requested the SANDAG Board of Directors work with the EWG to request the analysis of the many different alternatives to the Sunrise Powerlink from the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), which the CAISO has yet to make available to the EWG.

Mr. Abarbanel then stated the EWG recommendation, which was: The EWG feels it is premature to support, affirm, or oppose the project as the information needed to make the recommendation is not yet firm enough and that the Board take no position.

Chair Holt Pfeiler introduced various speakers.

Scott Crider, representing SDG&E, stated for the record that they were troubled by the fact that SDG&E was not allowed a seat at the EWG meeting on November 1, 2006. Their representative was not allowed to be in the room due to a financial conflict of interest. He said SDG&E finds the timing to be suspect as they’ve been voting on issues for the last three years and nearly every vote had some sort of financial impact, as SDG&E is the energy company. He added that the Powerlink’s purpose is to provide for reliability, access renewables, and help lower energy costs. Also, the Powerlink meets the policy goals of the Regional Energy Strategy (RES) by increasing the transmission capacity, identifying an interconnection project and building it by 2008, and providing an interconnection outside the service territory.

Mr. Crider continued that SDG&E is not in opposition to the EWG recommendation and will not reach a conclusion on the route of the transmission line until the end of 2007. The EIR will be completed a month before the proposed decision. He said SDG&E recommends that the RPC direct the EWG to return with a recommendation whether Sunrise is consistent with the Regional Energy Strategy (RES) by March 2007, and then, if SANDAG feels a need to weigh in on the routing issues, then it can. However, if the EWG finds SPL to be inconsistent with the RES, the routing is actually moot.

Chair Holt Pfeiler noted that Mr. Crider will be the official resource from SDG&E should anyone have further questions.

Joe Maruca, County Supervisor for Imperial County, stated that he attended the meeting in order to dispel any misconceptions. He continued by saying that in April 2006, the Imperial
County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to oppose the Sunrise Powerlink as it did not believe the information from the power company. They are very concerned that the power is going to be provided from power plants located in Mexico, including an LNG plant currently under construction south of Rosarito, B.C., Mexico. They also understand that the Imperial substation will provide power not only to the United States but to other cities in Mexico, as well. He suggested the power plant be constructed in Imperial County instead of Mexico, as Mexico does not have the same air quality standards as the United States.

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price (County of San Diego) asked Supervisor Maruca the rationale of extending an invitation for the construction of a power plant in Imperial County.

Supervisor Maruca responded that they want the plant in the United States not only for the added jobs and tax revenue but, more importantly, because they would be able to monitor and control the operations and make sure the company was doing the right thing.

Supervisor Maruca presented the RPC Resolution #2006-029, “A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Imperial Opposing Conveyance of Any Power Or Fuel To Or From a Power Generating Facility Unless It Is California-Compliant and Provides Emission Offsets for the Project and Its Associated Components,” which was passed and adopted by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors on April 11, 2006.

Laura Copic, member of Communities United for Sensible Power and the Pauma Valley Community Planning Board, stated that both groups oppose the Powerlink, along with the Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Board and Torrey Hills Community Planning Board. She stated the group’s rationale was that the “transmission first” strategy contradicts the Energy Action Plan and the RES. In addition, the Powerlink would be a visible blight, and a fire and health hazard. She added that the Division of Ratepayer Advocates at the CPUC was one of the first in the public utility process to file a protest against the application due to the many unanswered questions and questionable assumptions with regard to the application. She supports the EWG’s recommendation as there is not sufficient information.

Paul O’Neal, representing the EWG Resources Subcommittee, informed the group that LEAPS is the acronym for Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage. It would be a hydroelectric plant built above and below Lake Elsinore, with a 31-mile-long transmission line. He stated that he, like SDG&E, was asked to leave the room at the November 1, 2006, EWG meeting as he is in the business of public strategies and policies. An important fact, he felt, is that SDG&E does not have a route nor an EIR and therefore the project cannot be analyzed from a cost standpoint.

Harvey Payne, Chair of Rancho Penasquitos Concerned Citizens and an intervener in the Sunrise Powerlink proceeding before the CPUC, stated they were one of many community-based groups in opposition to the Sunrise Powerlink. He supported the EWG’s recommendation and encouraged the RPC to support the recommendation of non-opposition and non-support due to the lack of information.

Don Wood, representing C-3 and Pacific Energy Policy Center (PEPC), said neither group has taken a position on the proposed line as the proposal has changed several times since it was initially proposed and it continues to evolve. He informed the group that the assigned
Commissioner’s Project Scoping Memo was just released Wednesday and it identified a significant amount of additional information that they want SDG&E to provide. One of the issues being debated between the CPUC and CAISO is whether promised demand reduction results coming from the proposed demand response programs should be used in transmission project planning. He supports he recommendation due to the unanswered questions regarding the project.

Bill Powers, Co-Chair of the Border Power Plant Working Group, commented that the project is not consistent with RES Goal #2, which states that over time the amount of in-basin generation in the region would be increased. He said one of the fundamental premises to the Sunrise Powerlink is that local in-basin generation would be left to atrophy over time and the U.S. would have to rely more and more on imports. He urged the RPC to adopt the recommendation proposed by the EWG.

Councilmember Donna Frye (City of San Diego), member of the EWG, wanted to bring to the group’s attention that CAISO would not provide the EWG with documentation supporting its findings in regard to savings to ratepayers from the Sunrise Powerlink. She stated that only approximately $1 would be saved; however, there hasn’t been an analysis done. She urged the group to support the recommendation of the EWG.

Chair Holt Pfeiler asked Councilmember McCoy to begin discussion on the item. Councilmember McCoy said she was concerned over the onslaught on state parks in the county, the negative impact on the health of the population and associated costs related to it, and the lack of information. She cautioned that the decision will affect lifetimes of people and the importance to explore all the issues when coming to a decision.

Michael Beck, representing Endangered Habitats League, observed that in the past, homes required a small amount of electricity (40–50 amps), and nowadays they can require 400 amps or more. He asked if a study had been performed regarding power usage associated with building densities.

Ms. Freedman answered that to her knowledge, SANDAG has not done a study. They are presently looking at future modeling such as the I-Place3s model, which will help evaluate and estimate land use and building densities and the power associated with them.

Mr. Abarbanel continued that the analysis indicates another thousand megawatts of power will be needed in 2010. There are several different options, and the transmission line is one of them. It isn’t clear that the transmission line proposed by SDG&E is the one to be chosen, and the message of the EWG is to acknowledge the need for more power.

Councilmember Matt Hall (North County Coastal) remarked that the group does not have all the technical data necessary and asked that there be timelines assigned to the analysis in order to produce results.

Supervisor Slater-Price informed that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors decided to take a wait-and-see position pending the findings of CALPIRG’s study and some of the other studies being performed. She was concerned about the impacts to the many open space areas, the cost benefit analysis, the lack of data and complete project report, and the many
unanswered questions. She made a motion to accept and affirm the findings of the Energy Working Group.

Councilmember McCoy seconded the motion.

Councilmember Steve Gronke (North county Inland) commented that he would like to further investigate the LEAPS program. He agreed, however, and seconded the motion.

Councilmember Hall reiterated the need to frame options in timelines and a study of the economic impact.

Chair Holt Pfeiler stated that the motion will go to the November 17 Board of Directors meeting as a neutral position, and there must be a schedule when a decision can be made and the time that will be spent to get the information back. She directed the EWG to work on gathering information so that a conclusion may be reached.

Supervisor Slater-Price suggested the proponents of the power line help provide some of the information.

Vice Chair Jerry Jones (East County) said that as a member of the Regional Energy Policy Advisory Council (REPAC), the need for renewable energy was always important. He supported the recommendation of the EWG and cited the lack of information and other concerns related to the power line.

Ms. Freedman responded that the CPUC, the lead agency looking at the application, on November 1, 2006, came out with its timeline of when the Draft EIR would be presented. She also stated that these timelines generally slide but serve as a good starting point. As of this date, the publication of a Draft EIR is scheduled for August 3, 2007, with an expected date of completion of the Final EIR on November 20, 2007.

Chair Holt Pfeiler remarked that there were comments regarding parties not being able to participate in the EWG due to conflict of interest and the need to explore the possibilities of having all parties participate in the discussion in order to receive the best information. She said that San Diego was the only county in the state that actually partners with the provider when planning its energy future, and that it’s very important to continue dialogue.

Mr. Abarbanel agreed and told the group that General Counsel had been asked to give the EWG a written list of items everybody can and cannot participate in, and also said he was disappointed that SDG&E was not allowed to participate on November 1, as they have been a very good partner in discussing issues in a very straight-forward way.

Action: Upon a motion by Supervisor Slater-Price and a second by Councilmember Patricia McCoy, the SANDAG Regional Planning Committee unanimously approved to affirm the Energy Working Group’s recommendation.
Keith Greer, Senior Environmental Planner (SANDAG), reported that the TransNet Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) was adopted with the TransNet extension in November 2004. The EMP Working Group advises the RPC and Board of Directors to identify regional priorities, implement habitat conservation plans, and establish a funding strategy. The EMP establishes two funds: The Transportation Project Mitigation Fund to mitigate the direct cost of projects in the Regional Transportation Plan for Mobility 2030; and the Regional Habitat Conservation Fund, which is the economic benefit derived for specific assurances with certain state and federal regulatory agencies through the environmental review process.

The funds can be used for habitat acquisition, biological monitoring, or land management. The EMP guidelines for 2007 indicate a $2 million target and the EMP Working Group recommends allocation of the fiscal 2007 monies for management and monitoring of the Regional Habitat Conservation Fund, as well as a Draft Five-Year Strategy for this same management and monitoring.

The availability of these funds is tied to a Draft Master Agreement, which locks in the provisions of the voter-approved TransNet extension. The Master Agreement is currently being developed cooperatively between SANDAG, Caltrans, California Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with an estimated completion date of late March 2007.

Upon review of the region, the EMP Working Group identified the most urgent regional management monitoring needs. They are:

- Lack of regional coordination of management and monitoring
- Lack of a strategic plan for weed (invasive species) removal
- Lack of standards for regional monitoring activities, data storage, and analysis

The EMP Working Group also identified two regional monitoring efforts that needed to occur: the flagship species of these programs in Southern California, the Southern California Gnatcatcher; and the recovery of species after the 2003 wildfires.

The EMP Working Group recommends a series of activities for 2007, as well as the conceptual Five-Year Strategy which address the program developer administration, land costs, and biological monitoring costs over the next five years.

It is requested that the RPC recommend the SANDAG Board of Directors approve:

- The proposed budget and activities for FY 2007 when funding becomes available
- The conceptual Five-Year Funding Strategy
- Authorization of the Executive Director to solicit proposals and enter into contracts when funding becomes available
• Authorization should be to coordinate for the selection of a Program Developer and the contract positions, enter into contracts for those ongoing monitoring efforts, and solicit proposals for new efforts

 Supervisor Slater-Price asked if the $2 million was supposed to be released for purchases and other types of activities, and not just mainly for administration and creating new jobs.

 Mr. Greer answered that the activities can be for land acquisition, management, or monitoring.

 Supervisor Slater-Price informed Mr. Greer that the County of San Diego has been working on these issues for many years and was concerned the allocation would duplicate the efforts of what has already been done. She was interested in seeing the money invested in the product rather than in the process.

 Advisory Member Jeannette Baker (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) stated that there was a need for uniformity among agencies when monitoring.

 Advisory Member Susan Wynn (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) added that the primary task of the Coordinator would be to develop a Strategic Plan for the County at large, and better prioritize. The bulk of the money would be earmarked for actual on-the-ground, countywide implementation of the Strategic Plan. The allocation would be used to continue the efforts and supplement the state and federal funds being expended for the same effort.

 Councilmember McCoy reiterated they do not want a duplicate effort and suggested getting a matrix of organizations with a description of what each organization does in order to avoid duplication.

 Michael Beck, representing the Endangered Habitats League, said the proposed program will establish the infrastructure to coordinate and collect, manage, and analyze the data and then give adaptive management directives to people on the ground, both collecting data and managing the land. The infrastructure is going to be a regional coordinating prospective that does not presently exist and is needed to succeed. Once the infrastructure is in place, they plan to bring in private sector funding to meet 25% of the annual budget.

 Supervisor Slater-Price commented on the nurseries and other commercial vendors of plant products that are selling invasives. She then made a motion to approve the recommendation, with the added proviso that staff should work with stakeholders to release at least some of the funding so work could begin this year.

 Councilmember McCoy seconded the motion.

 Advisory Member Dave Drucker (NCTD) commented that the positions appear to be contract positions and strongly urged that they be full-time regular positions.

 Chair Holt Pfeiler asked Mr. Greer if it would be possible to negotiate the Master Agreement in a timely fashion so as to be able to meet the deadlines.
Mr. Greer answered that the Master Agreement should be ready in March, and the gnatcatcher and post-fire monitoring, which will use the bulk of the money, should be conducted in the spring of 2007.

Chair Holt Pfeiler stated that there was a motion and a second; therefore, it passed unanimously.

**Action:** Upon a motion by Supervisor Slater-Price and a second by Councilmember Patricia McCoy, the SANDAG Regional Planning Committee unanimously approved the recommendation, with the added proviso that staff should work with stakeholders to release at least some of the funding so work could begin this year.

### 6. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Regional Planning Committee is scheduled for Friday, January 5, 2007, at 12 noon.

### 7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lori Holt Pfeiler adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

Attachment: Attendance Sheet
CONFIRMED ATTENDANCE  
SANDAG REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 3, 2006  
12 noon to 2 p.m.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUBREGIONAL AREA</th>
<th>JURISDICTION</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>MEMBER/ALTERNATE</th>
<th>ATTENDING</th>
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<tr>
<td>North County Inland</td>
<td>City of Escondido</td>
<td>Lori Holt-Pfeiler, Chair</td>
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<td>City of Vista</td>
<td>Steve Gronke</td>
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<td>City of Coronado</td>
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<td>City of Carlsbad</td>
<td>Matt Hall</td>
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<td>Lesa Heebner</td>
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<td>Toni Atkins</td>
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<td>Caltrans, District 11</td>
<td>Pedro Orso-Delgado</td>
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<td>San Diego County Water Authority</td>
<td>Howard Williams</td>
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<td>Department of Defense</td>
<td>Susanah Aguilera</td>
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<td>Harry Mathis (Chairman)</td>
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<td>Niall Fritz</td>
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<td>Kathy Keehan</td>
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<td>John Donnelly</td>
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<td>Therese O’Rourke</td>
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