

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

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The general public has demonstrated their support of alternative energy projects. The power that is generated by such facilities, however, is often located great distances from the large population centers which will utilize it. A good example is the Antelope Valley – a growing center of alternative energy projects, due largely to phenomenal solar resources and available land – and the residents in the Los Angeles basin, who will use the energy generated by these projects.

Existing high-power utility lines do not have adequate capacity to carry this new electrical power from Antelope Valley to Los Angeles. Two large utilities, Southern California Edison and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, have begun construction and are proposing new high-power utility lines from Antelope Valley to Los Angeles. The first phase of Edison’s construction project is already largely completed, and the second phase is in the planning phases. The City of Los Angeles’ project is currently in the environmental and route selection phase.

Despite recognized environmental impacts upon property and residents in local cities and unincorporated areas, the final approval of the noted projects, have, or will receive approval by regulatory agencies outside the jurisdiction of County of Los Angeles. For example, SCE’s project and environmental documents are reviewed and permitted through the State of California Public Utilities Commission, and the Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power Project will be reviewed and approved by the LA City Council.

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Although residents in North County actively communicated their concerns and were involved in the preparation of an EIR/EIS for Edison's project, many residents feel that mitigation measures have been ignored or changes were made without notification to residents. For example, Leona Valley residents have voiced concerns about construction on private property and the excessive use of helicopters for construction in and around Leona Valley, and Santa Clarita residents are upset that large lattice towers were constructed rather than the smaller mono poles shown in previous community meetings. There remains substantial concern about utility line alignments being selected due more to the convenience of utilities and Federal and State agencies and less to the impacts upon local residents.

The concerns about power line projects are not unique to Los Angeles County. It has been reported to my office that the City of Chino Hills, the County of San Diego, and the County of San Miguel (Colorado), and possibly other cities and counties, have filed separate lawsuits against utility companies regarding new power line projects within their jurisdictions. These reports suggest that utility companies and State regulators are not giving due consideration to local communities that must live with the impacts of these projects.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office and County Counsel to:

- Secure copies of the relevant lawsuits against utility companies concerning installation of new power lines and analyze same for direction relative to new power line projects in Los Angeles County;
- Identify what regulatory authority County agencies have with respect to new power line projects which traverse unincorporated communities; and
- **Identify what regulatory authority County agencies have with respect to new power line projects which traverse protected and environmentally sensitive areas such as the West Mojave Plan located within Los Angeles County; and**
- Report back to the Board within 15 days on the feasibility of initiating litigation against Southern California Edison and the Los Angeles City Department of Water & Power relative to the power lines under construction and planned for Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Valley.

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