

JERRY LEWIS
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February 6, 2008

Mr. Nick Patsaouras
President
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Board of Commissioners
111 North Hope Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Patsaouras:

It has come to my attention that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is considering a new electricity transmission corridor along the I-10 and through the Morongo Basin to the High Desert as part of Project Greenpath. As the Representative of California's 41st Congressional District, I join the County of San Bernardino and the local communities in staunch opposition to the proposed route.

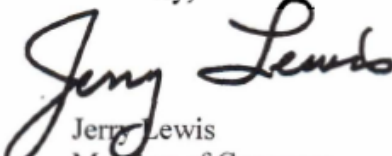
Project Greenpath is designed to bring renewable geothermal power to the City of Los Angeles and I applaud your efforts to increase California's renewable portfolio. But it is not acceptable to destroy some of the nation's most sensitive and beautiful desert land to supply power to the city of Los Angeles. These transmission lines, and the necessary construction and maintenance associated with them, would have a very real and lasting impact on the desert, its wildlife, and its residents. Every community in the rapidly growing region has vigorously opposed the project in its current form.

The Bureau of Land Management has designated several routes within the desert as transmission corridors. To disregard these carefully planned routes would be irresponsible of the department and disrespectful to Los Angeles' neighbors in San Bernardino County. Many of these corridors are currently vacant or still have more than adequate capacity. I believe very strongly that Project Greenpath would be best served to remove the Morongo Basin proposal from the equation and focus on the already established routes available.

It was very disconcerting to hear that LADWP began surveying land without first notifying local officials and property owners of their intentions for the region. This lack of transparency has created a great deal of ill will among my constituents. In the future I would encourage the department to be more proactive in reaching out to my office and the local communities before any further action is taken.

Should you have any questions regarding my perspective on this issue, I would ask that you contact Justin Landon, on my staff. He can be reached at (202) 225-5861.

Sincerely,



Jerry Lewis
Member of Congress

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