

PRESS RELEASE

SIERRA CLUB OFFERS TO WORK WITH BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO OPPOSE GREEN PATH NORTH

Environmental Group Says Los Angeles Project Is Harmful and Unnecessary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 12, 2008
Contact: Sid Silliman (909) 946-5027

SAN BERNARDINO. Today Sierra Club addressed the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors in opposition to the "Green Path North" project, a new power line corridor proposed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The well-known conservation organization, often at odds with the Board, offered to work with the Board in a spirit of cooperation to stop the new electric transmission corridor project.

"The Sierra Club shares with the Board of Supervisors a common concern for the negative impact of Green Path North on environmentally sensitive areas within San Bernardino County and shares a common resolve that any new high-tension power lines be routed along existing transmission corridors," said Sid Silliman, Energy Chair of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power proposes to construct a new high-tension electric transmission powerline corridor from the Desert Hot Springs area through the Morongo Basin to Victorville. The new high tension lines and towers will adversely affect the Big Morongo Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the Pioneertown Mountains Preserve, wildlife corridors that connect Joshua Tree National Park and the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve to the San Bernardino National Forest and wilderness areas, as well as scores of private land parcels and desert communities in its path.

While the Sierra Club commended the City of Los Angeles for its goal of increasing the delivery of electricity from renewable resources, it noted that there is no justification for a new northern corridor and that the Department of Water and Power must be made to work with Southern California Edison to share the existing transmission lines through the San Gorgonio Pass.

Stated Silliman: "San Gorgonio Chapter looks forward to cooperating with the County on the basis of shared environmental concerns, common opposition to Green Path North, and a common conviction that new high-tension power lines should utilize existing transmission corridors" and added, "clean, renewable energy is imperative if we are to stop global warming, but building unnecessary, new energy transmission corridors, especially in pristine natural areas, is unwarranted and unacceptable."

The Sierra Club is a nonprofit conservation organization of over 732,000 members dedicated to exploring, enjoying, and protecting the wild places of the earth. The San Gorgonio Chapter represents Sierra Club in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.