

From: Pell, Jerry <Jerry.Pell@hq.doe.gov>
To: 'karen_goebel@fws.gov' <karen_goebel@fws.gov>
Cc: 'Tim Murphy' <TMurphy@entrinx.com>; 'Richard Williams'
<RWilliams@entrinx.com>; Como, Anthony <Anthony.Como@HQ.DOE.GOV>; Mills, Brian
<Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov>; Heredia, Joan
Sent: Tue Feb 23 13:36:26 2010
Subject: ESJ Project; Start of Informal Consultative Process

Karen,

You will recall our phone conversation of Wednesday 17 February about the proposed Energia Sierra Juarez (ESJ) Transmission Line Project, which would connect energy from a planned wind farm in northern Baja California, Mexico, to Pacific Gas and Electric Company's proposed East County Substation just north of the Mexican border. The attached letter now asks to start the informal consultative process with your office.

I hope the attached is satisfactory and adequate. If you need anything further - whether now or in the future - please don't hesitate to contact me. Also, although it's mentioned in the letter, let me also suggest here that you visit the Web site for the project EIS preparation process, which provides voluminous documents, at www.ESJProjectEIS.org

Best regards,

Dr. Jerry Pell, CCM
Principal NEPA* Document Manager
Permitting, Siting, and Analysis (OE-20) Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability U.S. Department of Energy Washington, DC 20585 Tel. 202-
586-3362 Fax 202-318-7761 Cell 240-529-3553

*National Environmental Policy Act



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

23 February 2010

Ms. Karen Goebel
Assistant Field Supervisor
Carlsbad Fish & Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
6010 Hidden Valley Road, Suite 101
Carlsbad, California 92011

Subject: Energía Sierra Juarez (ESJ-US) Transmission Line Project; Initiation of Informal Consultation Under §7 of the Endangered Species Act pursuant to 50 CFR 402.08, and Designation of Non-Federal Representative

Dear Ms. Goebel:

Energía Sierra Juarez U.S. Transmission, LLC (ESJ-US), proposes to construct and operate the ESJ U.S. Transmission Line, an electric transmission line project that would cross the U.S./Mexico border in the southeast corner of San Diego County, approximately 4 miles (6.4 km) east of Jacumba, California.

ESJ-US would construct either a double-circuit 230-kilovolt (kV) or a single-circuit 500-kV electric transmission line which would ultimately connect up to 1,250 megawatts (MW) of energy from renewable energy generators to be located in the general vicinity of La Rumorosa, Northern Baja California, Mexico (Ejido Jacume), with the Imperial Valley-Miguel segment of the Southwest Powerlink (SWPL) 500-kV transmission line. The proposed transmission line would have a total length of approximately 1.65 miles (2.65 km), including both the U.S. and Mexican portions of the line. The U.S. portion of the proposed line would be constructed on up to either five lattice towers or five steel monopoles over a distance of approximately 0.65 miles (1 km). San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) would provide the interconnection to the U.S. transmission grid system for the ESJ U.S. Transmission Line project at its proposed East County (ECO) Substation. Project location maps are attached, and a great deal of additional project information is available on the Web site for the preparation of the DOE environmental impact statement (EIS) for the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act at <http://esjprojecteis.org>.

Executive Order (E.O.) 10485 (September 9, 1953), as amended by E.O. 12038 (February 7, 1978) and 10 CFR §205.320 *et seq* (2000), requires that a Presidential permit be issued by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) before electric transmission facilities may be constructed, operated, maintained, or connected at the U.S. international border. On December 18, 2007, Baja

Wind U.S. Transmission, LLC (now known as ESJ-US), a subsidiary of Sempra Generation (Sempra), applied to DOE for a Presidential permit in accordance with the above regulations. The Presidential permit (OE Docket Number PP-334), if issued, would authorize ESJ-US to construct, operate, maintain, and connect the ESJ U.S. Transmission Line to the electrical grid.

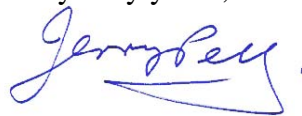
In this permitting capacity, DOE serves as the “Action Agency” with responsibility for consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. Accordingly, this letter is intended to advise the Service that we are designating ENTRIX, Inc., our EIS-preparation consultant, as the non-federal representative for purposes of engaging in informal consultation with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402.08, including preparation of a biological assessment as appropriate.

We have been given to understand that representatives of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the California Public Utilities Commission may have been in recent contact with Ms. Jessie Bennett of your office regarding the proposed ECO Substation project, the proposed ESJ-US Project as it pertains to the ECO Substation, and the proposed Iberdrola Renewable’s Tule Wind Project. You may wish to consider designating Ms. Bennett as the Service’s point-of-contact for our purposes as well.

Finally, we respectfully request from the Service an updated species list for the Action Area pursuant to 50 CFR 402.12(e). Please provide this material to Mr. Rick Williams of ENTRIX at rwilliams@entrix.com. He may also be reached at 916-386-3816.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me at 202-586-3362 or at Jerry.Pell@hq.doe.gov.

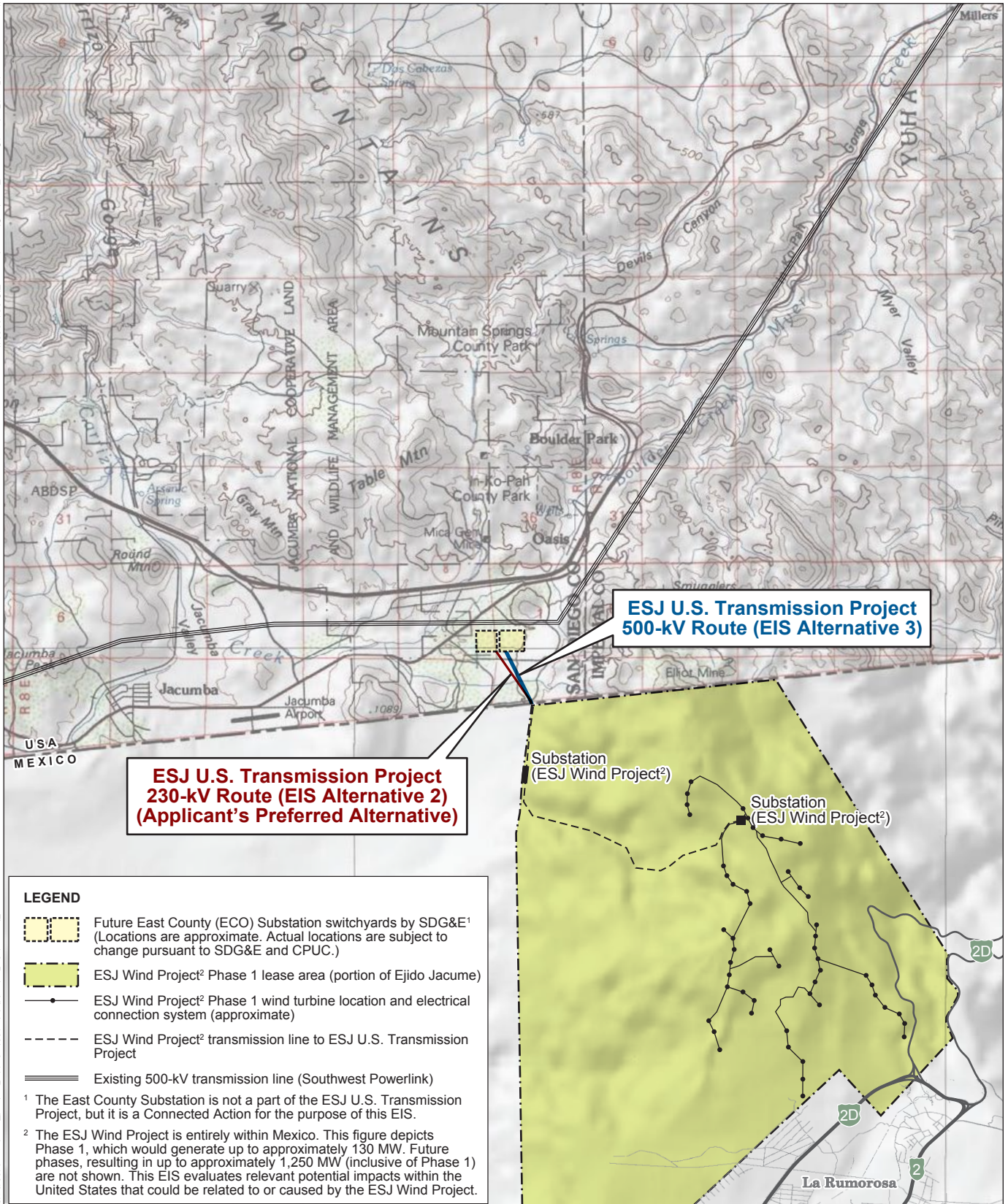
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Pell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jerry Pell, PhD, CCM
Principal NEPA Document Manager
Permitting, Siting, and Analysis (OE-20)
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Restoration

attachments

cc:Entrix

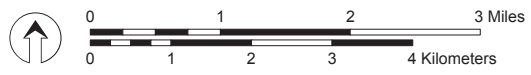


LEGEND

- Future East County (ECO) Substation switchyards by SDG&E¹ (Locations are approximate. Actual locations are subject to change pursuant to SDG&E and CPUC.)
- ESJ Wind Project² Phase 1 lease area (portion of Ejido Jacume)
- ESJ Wind Project² Phase 1 wind turbine location and electrical connection system (approximate)
- ESJ Wind Project² transmission line to ESJ U.S. Transmission Project
- Existing 500-kV transmission line (Southwest Powerlink)

¹ The East County Substation is not a part of the ESJ U.S. Transmission Project, but it is a Connected Action for the purpose of this EIS.

² The ESJ Wind Project is entirely within Mexico. This figure depicts Phase 1, which would generate up to approximately 130 MW. Future phases, resulting in up to approximately 1,250 MW (inclusive of Phase 1) are not shown. This EIS evaluates relevant potential impacts within the United States that could be related to or caused by the ESJ Wind Project.

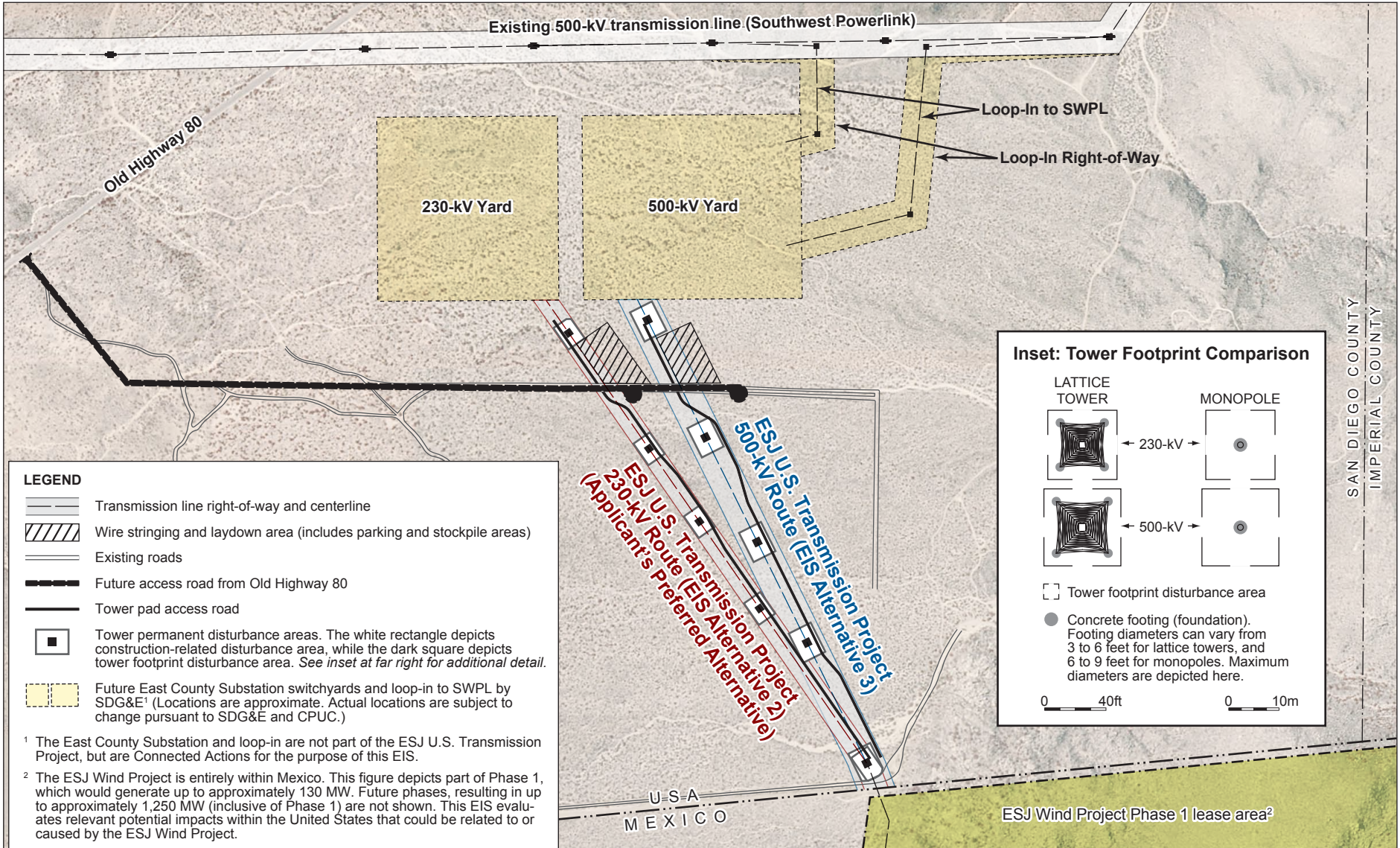


Source(s): EDWA/AECOM ESJ U.S. project, 11/09; ESJ Wind gen-tie line and Jacume substation, 1/10. BURNS & MCDONNELL ESJ U.S. Preliminary Grading Plans, 6/09 rev 10/09. ESJ LLC wind turbine locations, 5/09; Phase 1 site layout, 7/09. SDG&E Proponent's Environmental Assessment for the East County Substation Project, 8/09. SANGIS/USGS/GOOGLE basemap data, 2009/2010.

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**FIGURE 1-2
PROJECT VICINITY MAP**



LEGEND

- Transmission line right-of-way and centerline
- Wire stringing and laydown area (includes parking and stockpile areas)
- Existing roads
- Future access road from Old Highway 80
- Tower pad access road
- Tower permanent disturbance areas. The white rectangle depicts construction-related disturbance area, while the dark square depicts tower footprint disturbance area. *See inset at far right for additional detail.*
- Future East County Substation switchyards and loop-in to SWPL by SDG&E¹ (Locations are approximate. Actual locations are subject to change pursuant to SDG&E and CPUC.)

¹ The East County Substation and loop-in are not part of the ESJ U.S. Transmission Project, but are Connected Actions for the purpose of this EIS.

² The ESJ Wind Project is entirely within Mexico. This figure depicts part of Phase 1, which would generate up to approximately 130 MW. Future phases, resulting in up to approximately 1,250 MW (inclusive of Phase 1) are not shown. This EIS evaluates relevant potential impacts within the United States that could be related to or caused by the ESJ Wind Project.

Inset: Tower Footprint Comparison

LATTICE TOWER		MONOPOLE
	← 230-kV →	
	← 500-kV →	

Tower footprint disturbance area

Concrete footing (foundation). Footing diameters can vary from 3 to 6 feet for lattice towers, and 6 to 9 feet for monopoles. Maximum diameters are depicted here.

0 40ft 0 10m

Source(s): Burns & McDonnell Engineering, June 9, 2009 (*ESJ U.S. Transmission Project & SWPL*). SDG&E, August 2009 (*East County Substation switchyard locations*). Sempra Generation, July 15, 2009 & January 2010 (*ESJ Wind Project*). USDA-FSA-APFO, 2000 (*aerial photo*).



PROJECT LOCATION



ENERGIA SIERRA JUAREZ U.S. TRANSMISSION LINE EIS

FIGURE 2-1 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
IMPERIAL COUNTY