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BEFORE THE  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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IN THE MATTER OF: : Docket Number  
NORTH BAJA PIPELINE : CP06-61-000  
EXPANSION PROJECT :

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DEIS Comment Meeting  
Blythe City Council Chamber  
235 North Broadway  
Blythe, California 92225

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

The above-entitled matter came on for public  
meeting, pursuant to notice, at 7:07 p.m.

PANELISTS: DAVE SWEARINGEN, TIM FILLER, ALFREDO FIGUEROA,  
JOSEPH SWAIN

## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (7:07 p.m.)

3 MR. SWEARINGEN: Okay. We'll come to order.  
4 Let's get started. On behalf of the Federal Energy  
5 Regulatory Commission and the California State Lands  
6 Commission, I want to welcome you all here tonight. Let the  
7 record show that the DEIS public comment meeting began at  
8 7:07 p.m., December 6, 2006.

9 My name is Dave Swearingen, and I am an  
10 environmental project manager with the Federal Energy  
11 Regulatory Commission or "FERC."

12 And the gentleman here to my left is Tom Filler.  
13 He is with the California State Lands Commission.

14 We are the respective environmental project  
15 managers for the production of the Environmental Impact  
16 Statement and Environmental Impact Report for the North Baja  
17 Pipeline Expansion Project. And I'm just going to call that  
18 the "EIS" for short.

19 My agency, the FERC, is the federal lead for the  
20 project, and Tom's agency, the State Lands Commission, is  
21 the state lead agency.

22 Also with me tonight are Amy Davis and Dave  
23 Potter with NRG, the environmental contractors assisting us  
24 with the environmental analysis for the North Baja Project.

25 Amy is to my left and Dave is at the sign-in

1 table at the back.

2 The U.S. Bureau of Land Management is a  
3 cooperating agency for preparation of the EIS and is using  
4 the document for evaluating amendments to the California  
5 Desert Conservation Area Plan and the Yuma District Resource  
6 Management Plan.

7 Steve Fusilier, to my left at the end of the  
8 table, from the BLM, is also here with us tonight.

9 The purpose of this meeting is for the FERC, the  
10 State Lands Commission, and the BLM to get your comments on  
11 the draft EIS that we recently released. In a moment, I am  
12 going to give a brief overview of the FERC process, and then  
13 the State Lands Commission will have a chance to discuss its  
14 agency role in the North Baja Project.

15 To speak tonight, we have a sign-up sheet in the  
16 back. If you could, I would like you to sign up on that  
17 sheet, if you plan on making comments, if you haven't signed  
18 up already.

19 If you prefer not to speak tonight, you can mail  
20 a comment letter to FERC or submit comments electronically.  
21 There is a sheet in the back that explains how to submit  
22 comments through the mail or electronically. And it's also  
23 explained in the draft EIS.

24 We give all comments equal weight, regardless of  
25 how you get them to us. If you have any questions about how

1 to submit comments, you can talk to me after the meeting. I  
2 will be glad to help you with that.

3 Okay. Where we are in the process. Right now,  
4 we are in the midst of a 90-day comment period on the draft  
5 EIS. That comment period ends on December 28th. All  
6 comments that we receive within the comment period will be  
7 addressed in our final EIS.

8 What's helpful for us is if you make -- if you  
9 want to make a comment on the draft, is to be as specific as  
10 you can. So, if you see some analysis that you think is  
11 flawed or some data that you think are incorrect, you need  
12 to point that out to us. If you just say, well, I don't  
13 like it, or I don't agree with it, without going into  
14 specifics, it's not terribly helpful.

15 What we do is, we take your comments, and then we  
16 revise the draft EIS, and then we will issue a revised  
17 version, which we will call a final EIS.

18 If you received a copy of the draft EIS, you will  
19 automatically receive a copy of the final. If you didn't  
20 get a copy of the draft, and you would like to have a copy  
21 of the final, there is a sheet in the back where you can  
22 fill it out with your address, and we will make sure that  
23 you get a copy of it.

24 We have some CDs of the draft EIS here tonight,  
25 so you can pick up one of the CDs if you need one.

1           I would like to note that North Baja recently  
2           filed an amendment to its proposed action that includes what  
3           we call the "Arrowhead Alternative." It's discussed in  
4           Chapter 3 of the draft EIS.

5           So, from this point forward, the facilities  
6           associated with the Arrowhead Alternative are now going to  
7           be a part of the proposed action, but we are going to  
8           evaluate it as such.

9           Once we finish the final EIS, and mail it out, we  
10          will forward that on to our commissioners at FERC. The  
11          Commission will consider the environmental analysis along  
12          with other non-environmental issues in order to determine  
13          whether or not to issue an authorization for the North Baja  
14          Project.

15          So, the EIS in itself is not a decision-making  
16          document for the FERC. It is just one tool of the process.

17          Now, I am going to turn the meeting over to Tom  
18          Filler, so he can explain the California State Lands  
19          Commission involvement in the North Baja Project and how his  
20          agency is using the draft and final documents.

21          MR. FILLER: Good evening and welcome. My name  
22          is Tom Filler and I am with the California State Lands  
23          Commission. And basically the Commission's role is CEQA  
24          lead in this project, making sure that the project meets and  
25          maintains those state regulatory requirements set forth by

1 CEQA.

2 And then right now, as you heard, we are in the  
3 comment stages for the draft EIR. Once those comments are  
4 incorporated into the final document, that document, will be  
5 presented to our Commission, and as it goes forth, the  
6 Commission will certify that the project is following and  
7 has followed the CEQA guidelines and that it's fulfilling  
8 the regulatory requirements.

9 From that point, there will be findings made by  
10 the Commission, and they will use those findings whether --  
11 to authorize the project or reject the project, based on  
12 those findings.

13 So, right now, I would, like Dave says, we are  
14 just in the comment-gathering phase of this project. And we  
15 will be proceeding from there.

16 Thanks.

17 MR. SWEARINGEN: Okay. Thank you, Tom. Tom and  
18 I will be available after the meeting if you have any  
19 questions. Steve at the BLM also can answer questions if  
20 you have any.

21 You will probably notice that North Baja has set  
22 up some posters and some information in the back that can  
23 explain -- that can explain the project to you specifically  
24 if you have any questions. I think they might have some  
25 alignment sheets if you wanted to look at anything specific

1 aspects of the project.

2 And, with that, we will go ahead and take anybody  
3 who wants to comment. I see the speakers list. Here we  
4 have somebody who wishes to make comments.

5 What I would like you to do is to come up and you  
6 can stand or sit in the chair right there. When you come  
7 up, spell your name, because we have a transcriber here who  
8 is going to put this on the public record -- I mean, the  
9 official transcript of this. So, it will be good if you  
10 spell your name and speak it clearly into the microphone so  
11 that your comments will be transcribed accurately.

12 So, Alfredo Figueroa.

13 MR. FIGUEROA: Yes. Okay. My name is Alfredo  
14 Figueroa. A-L-F-R-E-D-O, F-I-G-U-E-R-O-A. I am here today  
15 on behalf of the Sacred Sites Protection Circle. We have  
16 been working with the BLM for a long, long time, to become  
17 the conservators of the -- and so we were very interested in  
18 this whole project, and we were very glad and fortunate that  
19 we were able to have the PG&E people circumvent our sacred  
20 sites.

21 So I am here really not to -- just to say thank  
22 you. And we were very appreciative because that would  
23 really have hurt us, we that are Natives here, to have had  
24 Plan A, B and C going down to [inaudible] Peak destroyed  
25 there. And it was really fortunate to have, I guess, some

1        sympathetic people from the PG&E, or somebody, some of the  
2        people that decided that it was the best route to go -- it  
3        was the route that you took.

4                So, I am just here because -- and also because up  
5        there at Topock -- see, our creation story starts all the  
6        way from Topock down the way to the Gulf of California.  
7        Topock to us is called "Migla" -- it's where the beginning -  
8        - and PG&E really went out and then apologized to our -- one  
9        of our chairmen -- Nora from the Mojave Reservation, which  
10       was great.

11               So, we are making a little inroads -- we are, as  
12       far as these lines, gas lines and power lines and concerns.  
13       So, really my being here is just to say thank you that there  
14       was a very -- you don't know how much it means to us,  
15       because you people don't know!

16               But now you begin to know! PG&E apologized to  
17       our chairman over there for Mojave because of the  
18       destruction that they had done without consulting the  
19       Natives from the area. We know what the truth is.

20               So, before you guys leave, all you people, see  
21       that mural -- that wonderful mural, right in front? Why?  
22       It was meant for -- to be representative, because it is the  
23       center -- this is what we call the center of Laguna Dasman -  
24       - it means "cradle."

25               Be sure to see that mural, the wonderful mural in

1 the back. You won't forget it.

2 MR. SWEARINGEN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Figueroa.  
3 There are no other people signed up on the sheet. However,  
4 the meeting is open for anybody who would like to make a  
5 comment on North Baja Project.

6 MR. SWAIN: Good evening. My name is Joseph  
7 Swain. That's S-W-A-I-N. I am developing a piece of  
8 property on Riviera Drive, south of Interstate 10.

9 The residential community has already been  
10 approved from the Planning Commission and also the City  
11 Council. It is tract number 34480. It consists of 45 home  
12 sites and the proposed crossing under the Colorado River is  
13 going to go through a green belt area that we have set  
14 aside, anticipating that would probably be its most ideal  
15 location without having any further residential sandwiched  
16 between the existing gas line, east lands.

17 That being said, I support the Arrowhead  
18 Alternative as the meter stations or whatever facilities  
19 those are. I will follow that up in a written  
20 correspondence, but without becoming a major -- well, the  
21 development of that community with residential component, a  
22 metering station just does not fit in that area. And I  
23 think Arrowhead would be a much more logical location.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. SWEARINGEN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Swain. Is

1       there anybody else who would like to make a comment on the  
2       project or the EIS?

3                       (No response.)

4                       MR. SWEARINGEN: Okay. If not, then the meeting  
5       will close.

6                       Anyone wishing to keep up with the official  
7       activity associated with the North Baja Pipeline Project can  
8       use the FERC website. Within our website, there is a link  
9       called "e-library." If you type in the docket number, which  
10      for the North Baja Project is CP06-61.

11                      You can use e-library to gain access to  
12      everything on the FERC record concerning this project,  
13      including all the public filings, and information submitted  
14      by North Baja.

15                      On behalf of the Federal Energy Regulatory  
16      Commission, the California State Lands Commission, and the  
17      BLM, I want to thank you all for coming here tonight.

18                      Let the record show that the meeting concluded at  
19      7:20 p.m. Thank you.

20                      (Whereupon, at 7:30 p.m., the meeting was  
21      concluded.)

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