MISSION RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
138 S. Brandon Rd, Fallbrook, CA 92028

Special Board Meeting, Monday – November 09, 2026
4:00 p.m.

Board Members: President Scott Murray, Vice President Robert Lin, Treasurer Peggy Brown, Director Lynne Barnett
Associate Directors: Ross Pike, Mark Mervich, Cheryl Lindberg

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. Welcome Guests

III. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum

IV. Additions to the Agenda (Gov. Code 54954.2(b))
In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2 (the Brown Act), additions/changes to the agenda generally require a determination by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Board present at the meeting, or, if less than two- thirds of the members present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the District subsequent to the agenda being posted.

V. Oral Communications to the Board of Directors (Gov. Code 54954.3 (a))
This portion of the agenda may be used by any person to address the Board of Directors on any matter within the jurisdiction of Mission Resource Conservation District. However, depending on the subject matter, the Board of Directors may be unable to respond to at this time until the specific item is placed on a future agenda in accordance with the Brown Act. Speakers are limited to three minutes.

SECTION 1 – BOARD ACTION / DISCUSSION ITEMS

1-1: **Position Statement on the Golden Pacific Powerlink (Discussion and Possible Action):** Consider adopting a Mission RCD position statement regarding San Diego Gas & Electric's proposed Golden Pacific Powerlink transmission project, and authorizing the District Manager to submit the statement, as adopted, to the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Independent System Operator, SDG&E, elected officials, and other agencies, and to resubmit it as needed during the project's planning, permitting, and environmental review processes.

Staff recommendation / proposed motion:

Adopt the Mission RCD Position Statement Regarding the Golden Pacific Powerlink and authorize the [Board President / District Manager] to sign and submit the statement, as adopted, to the CPUC, CAISO, SDG&E, elected officials, and other agencies, and to resubmit it as needed for public comment periods, environmental review, and related proceedings for the project. Minor updates to dates, addressees, and project references may be made without further Board action. Any change to the substance of the District's position shall return to the Board for approval.

SECTION 2 – AGENDA SUGGESTIONS - NEXT MEETING *January 19, 2027*

SECTION 3 – ADJOURNMENT

Proposed Position Statement Regarding the Golden Pacific Powerlink

Mission Resource Conservation District (Mission RCD) is a special district of the State of California, organized under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code, that works with landowners, agencies, and communities to conserve soil, water, habitat, and other natural resources in North San Diego County. In that role, Mission RCD recognizes the importance of reliable electrical infrastructure to meet Southern California's growing energy needs, as well as its responsibility to help protect the watersheds, habitats, wildlife corridors, working lands, and open spaces of the communities it serves. These goals can and should be pursued together.

Based on the information and alternatives made available to date, Mission RCD does not support the Golden Pacific Powerlink as presently proposed. This is not opposition to essential infrastructure or to meeting California's energy needs. A project of this size, with potentially permanent effects on natural resources, warrants a broader and more transparent review before it proceeds. Mission RCD's concerns fall into two areas: whether this transmission line is needed, and, if it is, how it can be built with the least lasting harm to natural resources.

A Question of Fairness

From a San Diego County perspective, this project raises a basic question of fairness. California has set ambitious statewide goals to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions and change how electricity is generated and used. Yet the proposed Powerlink would place a heavy burden on San Diego County's natural resources to deliver electrical benefits across Southern California.

SDG&E estimates the cost impact on its customers at approximately 9% of the project's cost, because costs are shared among all customers served by the state's main grid operator. For purposes of evaluating fairness, we assume the region also receives approximately 9% of the benefits, although that share has not been independently established.

San Diego County, however, would bear nearly all of the impacts to local natural resources, including wildfire risk; soil disturbance and erosion; effects on watersheds, creeks, and sensitive habitats; fragmentation of wildlife corridors and open space; and impacts on scenic views and property values. The proposed route would affect Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the Santa

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Margarita River watershed, two of Southern California's most significant natural areas. Mission RCD questions whether this balance of regional benefits and local resource impacts is equitable.

Is This Transmission Line Necessary?

Nearly every kind of infrastructure involves trade-offs for natural resources. Sound resource stewardship does not mean opposing every project. It means comparing reasonable alternatives and choosing the one that meets the public need with the least lasting harm.

The Golden Pacific Powerlink came out of the California Independent System Operator's (CAISO) statewide transmission planning process, and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) is responsible for developing it. Setting state energy policy is outside Mission RCD's role. However, the alternatives presented publicly so far appear to focus mainly on different routes for the same transmission line, rather than on other ways to meet the same need.

Mission RCD requests that CAISO and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) provide a current and transparent assessment of alternatives that could reduce or avoid the need for a new transmission corridor, including:

- Local generation and battery storage
- Upgrades to existing transmission lines, advanced conductors, and other grid-enhancing technologies
- Continued operation of some existing generating facilities

These alternatives should be evaluated under realistic electricity demand and extreme summer conditions, using consistent reliability, cost, and environmental standards, including impacts to soil, water, habitat, and wildfire risk.

Approximately 145 miles of new transmission infrastructure through natural landscapes would have significant effects, some of them irreversible. Before that commitment is made, the public should be able to see whether another combination of resources could meet the same need with less harm.

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If the Line Is Needed, How Should It Be Built?

If a rigorous and transparent evaluation shows that new transmission is necessary, the focus must turn to protecting the natural resources along its path.

The Santa Margarita River is the longest free-flowing river in Southern California, supporting riparian habitat, wildlife corridors, and ongoing restoration work. Sandia Creek and the surrounding open space are part of this connected landscape. Conservation organizations, public agencies, landowners, and volunteers have invested decades in protecting these resources.

Mission RCD urges SDG&E and the regulatory agencies to select the route and construction methods that cause the least practicable permanent damage, giving preference to existing utility corridors, previously disturbed land, and upgrades to existing infrastructure over new corridors through intact habitat. Where construction cannot be avoided, the project should:

- Minimize new access roads, grading, and vegetation removal
- Use effective erosion and sediment controls to protect creeks and water quality
- Avoid riparian areas, sensitive waterways, and wildlife corridors, and schedule work to limit disturbance to wildlife
- Prevent the spread of invasive plants from equipment and disturbed soil
- Restore disturbed areas with locally appropriate native plants, with long-term monitoring and maintenance
- Manage vegetation in the corridor to reduce wildfire risk and protect emergency evacuation routes

Reasonable additional cost to protect significant natural resources is justified for infrastructure meant to serve California for generations. The lowest initial construction cost should not decide the route when it could cause much greater long-term harm.

Mission RCD is available to share its local knowledge of soil, watersheds, and land management with SDG&E, agencies, and landowners during route selection and restoration planning.

Mission RCD's Position and Request

Mission RCD asks CAISO, the CPUC, SDG&E, and California's elected officials to answer two questions before granting final approval:

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1. Has the need for this transmission project been shown against realistic technical, economic, and energy alternatives?
2. If it is needed, has the least environmentally damaging practical route and construction approach been identified?

This position reflects Mission RCD's commitment to responsible stewardship of natural resources, careful evaluation of alternatives, and a fair balance between regional benefits and local impacts. Until these questions are answered and the results are made available for public review, Mission RCD cannot support the Golden Pacific Powerlink as presently proposed.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of Mission Resource Conservation District at a duly noticed meeting on November 09, 2026.

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Scott A. Murray
President, Board of Directors
Mission Resource Conservation District

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Ani Vartanians
District Manager
Mission Resource Conservation District

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