MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

October 14, 2026

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of Vista Irrigation District was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at the offices of the District, 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Miller called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Directors present: Miller, Nuñez, Kuchinsky, MacKenzie and Sanchez.

Directors absent: None.

Staff present: Brett Hodgkiss, General Manager; Elizabeth Xaverius, Assistant Board Secretary; Lesley Dobalian, Director of Water Resources; Shallako Goodrick, Director of Administration; and Rick Pooley, Information Technology Supervisor. General Counsel Elizabeth Mitchell of Burke, Williams & Sorensen was also present.

Other attendees: Jerimy Billy with the San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority and Don Lincoln, Special Counsel for the City of Escondido. There were also ten members of the public present in person, and two members present via teleconference.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Sanchez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

26-10-93	***Upon motion by Director Kuchinsky, seconded by Director Nuñez and unanimously carried (5 ayes: Nuñez, Kuchinsky, Sanchez, MacKenzie, and Miller), the Board of Directors approved the agenda as presented.***

5. GOLDEN PACIFIC POWERLINK

See staff report attached hereto.

Director of Water Resources Lesley Dobalian provided an overview of the Golden Pacific Powerlink project (project) and the potential impact on the District owned land at Warner Springs. She said that San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) planned to operate a 145-mile 500-kilovolt transmission line which would run from the Imperial Valley Substation to the San Diego-Orange County border; all routes presented would cross District property requiring access roads and easements. She noted the project's significant adverse environmental impacts as well as its potential adverse impacts to water supply, water quality, and long-term water reliability for District customers and its partners under San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act and related agreements. Ms. Dobalian explained as stewards of the land the District also has concerns over the disturbance of sensitive biological and cultural resources, increased potential for wildfires, health and safety risks, and effects on local communities. She added that these

adverse impacts could occur during SDG&E's initial geotechnical investigations, construction and/or in connection with the ongoing operation of a permanent transmission line.

Ms. Dobalian presented the timeline provided by SDG&E, a map of the District's Warner Ranch property, which included SDG&E's preferred alignment, alternative South Mountain and Montezuma Grade routes, and the California Public Utilities Commission process timeline.

Ms. Dobalian informed the Board that staff has been in communication with SDG&E and the District's concerns have been expressed to them; she noted that SDG&E was also informed of the October 14, 2026 Board meeting. Ms. Dobalian stated that SDG&E has not apprised the District of an alternative route that would not cross District owned land.

Director Kuchinsky commented that the area that would be impacted by the project's transmission lines would see little benefit from any of the power that the lines will carry. Ms. Dobalian stated that is a common concern that she has heard at community meetings in Warner Springs and San Diego.

In response to Director Kuchinsky's inquiry, Ms. Dobalian stated that the District has not received a response from SDG&E regarding concerns that have been communicated to them by the District.

In response to President Miller, General Counsel Elizabeth Mitchell stated that utilities have the power to initiate eminent domain proceedings under certain circumstances.

Members of the public Bob Garcia, David Hogan, Joe Houde, Sandrine Montgomery, Frank McCarthy, Julie Johnson, Kathryn Otoshi, Malanie Klikea, Stephani Baxter, Jana Lucaccioni, Dana Darsalt, and Armie Phelps addressed the Board individually providing their comments in support of the District's resolution opposing the project.

Director Kuchinsky thanked the public for their attendance. He stated that the project would pose a direct threat to the environment, community safety, and one of the District's most precious resources, its local water supply. Director Kuchinsky said that the preliminary alignment is routed straight through the Warner Valley groundwater basin and the critical Lake Henshaw watershed. He stated that excavation, construction, heavy equipment use and ongoing operations and maintenance would contaminate local groundwater, endangering District's wells and private wells, as well as water supplies relied upon by the cities of Vista and Escondido, local Indian Bands, and numerous agricultural properties along the San Luis Rey River. Director Kuchinsky expressed his support to formally oppose the project.

Director Nuñez stated that his responsibility as a Director of the District is to protect the water supply, infrastructure, and its customers. He stated that this project affects communities beyond the District and residents have voiced legitimate concerns about the project. Director Nuñez expressed his support for staff to do what is necessary to protect the District's water supply, property and the ratepayers.

Director Nuñez informed the Board that he has been in communication with San Diego County Board of Supervisor Jim Desmond regarding the project; he read a statement from Supervisor Demond's office opposing the project.

Director Sanchez stated that he appreciated the public comments and encouraged them to continue their engagement in opposition to this project. He said he is proud of the District and their continued stewardship of Warner Ranch. Director Sanchez noted two things of importance: water reliability and water quality.

Director MacKenzie agreed with the Board's comments and raised questions regarding alternative routes that would not go through the District owned land.

President Miller expressed concern about SDG&E using eminent domain to acquire property needed for the project. He expressed his support in opposition to the project.

Director MacKenzie expressed concerns that the project could impact the District's ability to develop its wellfield that would serve the cities of Vista and Escondido as well as its partners under San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act.

2026-10-94	***Upon motion by Director MacKenzie, seconded by Director Nuñez, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2026-28 opposing the Golden Pacific Powerlink project by the following roll call vote:***
	AYES: ***Nuñez, Kuchinsky, Sanchez, MacKenzie, and Miller*** ***NOES:*** ***None*** ***ABSENT:*** ***None*** ***ABSTAIN:*** ***None***
	Resolution No. 2026-28 is on file in the official Resolution book of the District.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, at 1:58 p.m. President Miller adjourned the meeting.

Marty Miller, President

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Xaverius, Assistant Board Secretary
Board of Directors
Vista Irrigation District

VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 5

Board Meeting Date: October 14, 2026
Prepared By: Lesley Dobalian
Approved By: Brett Hodgkiss

SUBJECT: GOLDEN PACIFIC POWERLINK

RECOMMENDATION: Consider adopting Resolution No. 2026-XX opposing the Golden Pacific Powerlink project as proposed and/or providing direction to staff regarding any aspect of the project.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION: None.

FISCAL IMPACT: Unknown.

SUMMARY: San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) is planning to build, own and operate the Golden Pacific Powerlink (project), a 145-mile, 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Imperial Valley Substation to the San Diego–Orange County border. SDG&E's preliminary preferred and alternative routes all cross District owned land at Warner Springs; the height of the proposed transmission towers would be just under 200 feet high, and SDG&E would require an easement between 200 to 250 feet wide. Routing the project across District property is likely to result in adverse impacts to the District's local water supply, local and regional residents and customers, water quality, water reliability and environmentally sensitive areas, introduce contaminants into Lake Henshaw, increase fire risks and create life, health and safety risks in connection with the several faults that cross the Warner Basin.

DETAILED REPORT: In August 2025, SDG&E announced plans to build, own and operate a transmission line connecting SDG&E's existing Imperial Valley Substation to a new substation to be built just north of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. The project would create a new high-capacity pathway to help deliver electricity across Southern California. According to SDG&E, the project is anticipated to cost approximately $1.6 billion dollars to complete with service beginning in 2032.

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) identified the project in its 2022–2023 Transmission Plan as one of 45 recommended projects to meet California's need for new electricity generation and delivery capacity and to meet its carbon reduction goals. CAISO is the independent system operator of the California wholesale electric grid and manages the wholesale electricity transmission system flow for the electric grid, serving 80 percent of California and a small part of Nevada.

SDG&E is currently in the preliminary engineering and design phase to refine a conceptual project route; all the preliminary alignments presented by SDG&E cross District land in Warner Springs (see attached map). The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will serve as Lead Agency for the project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will be responsible for final project approval and route selection. SDG&E expects to submit its formal application to the CPUC in late 2026, detailing preliminary routes and anticipated environmental impacts; after SDG&E files a complete application with the CPUC, the formal CEQA review process will begin.

As part of its pre-filing stage, SDG&E is conducting stakeholder and agency outreach. On July 28, 2026, staff met with SDG&E to learn about the project. Staff has also attended public meetings hosted by SDG&E, the County of San Diego (County), the Warner Springs Community Sponsor Group, and the Save Warner Springs community group; at the meetings, there was extensive community opposition to the project with opponents expressing concerns about environmental impacts including, but not limited to, traffic, noise, aesthetics, air

quality, water quality, and fire risk. Staff have received phone calls, emails and letters from the public expressing opposition to the project (see attachments); SDG&E has offered to present information about the project to the Board at a future meeting.

Based on a preliminary analysis, staff is concerned about significant adverse impacts to the District and its customers that could result from the current routes proposed by SDG&E. Notably, the project could affect the ability of the District's ability to utilize its local water supply, degrade water quality, jeopardize short and long-term water production, management and delivery, and increase fire risk; the area is also known to have active seismic faults and potential liquefaction hazards. These negative impacts from the project could occur as early as SDG&E's initial geotechnical investigations, during construction, during the siting and/or in connection with the ongoing operation of a permanent transmission line.

The proposed routes could restrict the District's ability to maximize use of the local water system through future construction activities, land restrictions and easements. The District's local water system includes Lake Henshaw and the surrounding 43,000 acres of land that overlies the Warner Valley Groundwater Basin (Warner Basin); Lake Henshaw captures surface water from the surrounding watershed during wet weather and is augmented by groundwater pumped from the Warner Basin during dry years. By conjunctively managing its groundwater and surface water, the District provides high quality, affordable local water supply for its customers. Furthermore, restrictions on District's ability to manage the local water system potentially impact the City of Escondido and the La Jolla, Pauma, and Rincon Bands of Luiseño Indians and the Pala and San Pasqual Bands of Mission Indians (together comprising the San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority) who also share local water under the Congressional 1988 San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act and related subsequent agreements.

In March 2020, the District began analyzing whether to replace or retire the 100-year-old, 11-mile Vista Flume (Flume) which coveys treated local (and purchased) from the Escondido-Vista Water Treatment Plant to the District's service area. The District concluded the most cost-effective path forward is replacing the Flume along with maximizing local groundwater production in the Warner Basin. The District is committed to rehabilitating the existing wellfield to develop new, high-yield production wells and investing in replacing aging infrastructure (beginning with spending over $18 million on environmental, engineering and design services related to replacing the Flume); staff is extremely concerned about project as proposed restricting the use of District property, jeopardizing its ability to deliver a low cost water supply to its customers.

In addition to water supply, water quality and fire risk concerns, the project could affect the District's various land use agreements for portions of the Warner Ranch, including cattle grazing, recreation, wireless telecommunications, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), United States Department of Navy Remote Training Site Warner Springs and other governmental uses and recreation at Lake Henshaw. The project is also likely to require substantial staff resources for review, monitoring and oversight during the different phases of the project; SDG&E has already requested access to District land to conduct land, biological and cultural surveys. More detailed information on project impacts is provided in a District letter to the County (attached).

Finally, staff is seeking direction regarding any District preferred alternative routes for the project or any other input that the Board has regarding the project as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft resolution opposing the project as proposed
- Map of proposed project alignments across District land
- Letter sent to the County of San Diego dated August 17, 2026
- Communications received from the public regarding proposed project

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
OPPOSING THE GOLDEN PACIFIC POWERLINK PROJECT
AS CURRENTLY PROPOSED

WHEREAS, the California Independent System Operator and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) have proposed the Golden Pacific Powerlink (project), a 500-kilovolt high-voltage electric transmission line spanning approximately 145 miles from the Imperial Valley Substation through portions of Imperial, San Diego, and Riverside Counties to a new substation north of the former San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station; and

WHEREAS, SDG&E's preliminary preferred and alternative routes for the project all cross Vista Irrigation District (District) owned land at Warner Springs requiring easements between 200 and 250 feet wide to accommodate the proposed transmission towers nearly 200 feet high; and

WHEREAS, the project as proposed has the potential to result in significant adverse impacts to the District's local water supply, water quality, and short- and long-term water reliability, and these impacts would potentially increase the cost of water for the District's customers; and

WHEREAS, the project as proposed has the potential to result in significant impacts to local and regional residents and customers, environmentally sensitive areas, biological resources, recreational facilities, wildfire risks, and public health and safety associated with seismic hazards and active faulting; and

WHEREAS, by conjunctively managing its groundwater from the Warner Valley Groundwater Basin and local surface water, the District provides high quality, affordable local water supply for its customers and restrictions on the District's ability to manage the local water system potentially impact not only its customers but the City of Escondido and the La Jolla, Pauma, and Rincon Bands of Luiseño Indians and the Pala and San Pasqual Bands of Mission Indians (together comprising the San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority) who also share local water under the Congressional 1988 San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act (Settlement) and related subsequent agreements; and

WHEREAS, in addition to water supply, water quality and fire risk concerns, the project could affect the District's various land use agreements for portions of the Warner Ranch, including cattle grazing, recreation, wireless telecommunications, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), United States Department of Navy Remote Training Site Warner Springs and other governmental uses and recreation at Lake Henshaw, reducing or eliminating revenue generated by said agreements and requiring water rates and charges to be increased to offset lost revenue; and

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Directors finds it appropriate and necessary to add its voice to the public record before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and other responsible state and federal agencies in support of the communities the District serves, its employees, its partners under the Settlement Act, and local and regional residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Vista Irrigation District does resolve as follows:

1. The District strongly opposes the project as currently proposed, finding SDG&E's preliminary preferred and alternative routes for the project all significantly adversely impact the District, its employees, its customers, its partners under the Settlement Act, and local and regional residents, water supply, water quality, fire risks, sensitive environmental areas and other life, health and safety risks.

2. The District calls upon SDG&E and the CPUC to consider and work with the District to identify alternative alignments that will avoid or mitigate the significant adverse impacts of the project.

3. The Board of Directors authorizes and directs staff to take such action as is necessary, proper and consistent with this resolution, that addresses the adverse impacts to the District, including local and regional residents and customers, the District's local water supply, water quality, water reliability, environmentally sensitive areas, and other life, health and safety risks, and any District preferred alternative alignment as identified by the Board of Directors at its special meeting on October 14, 2026.

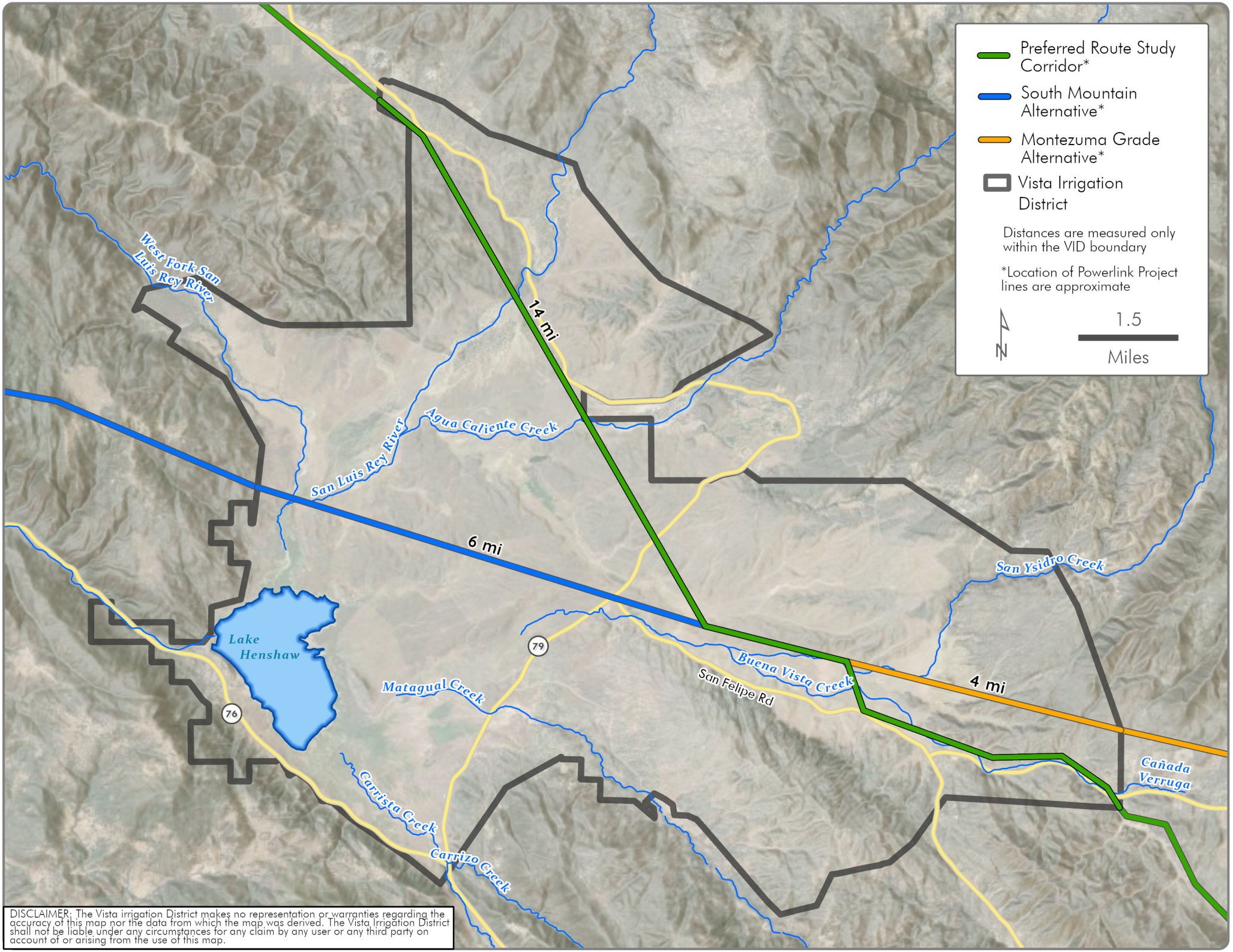
PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Directors of the Vista Irrigation District on this 14th day of October, 2026, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

_____
Marty Miller, President
Board of Directors

ATTEST:

_____
Elizabeth Xaverius, Assistant Board Secretary
Board of Directors
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT


Preferred Route Study Corridor*
South Mountain Alternative*
Montezuma Grade Alternative*
Vista Irrigation District
Distances are measured only within the VID boundary
*Location of Powerlink Project lines are approximate
N
1.5
Miles
West Fork San Luis Rey River
14 mi
San Luis Rey River
Agua Caliente Creek
6 mi
San Ysidro Creek
Lake Henshaw
79
Buena Vista Creek
San Felipe Rd
4 mi
Matagual Creek
76
Cañada Verruga
Carrizo Creek
Carrizo Creek
DISCLAIMER: The Vista irrigation District makes no representation or warranties regarding the accuracy of this map nor the data from which the map was derived. The Vista Irrigation District shall not be liable under any circumstances for any claim by any user or any third party on account of or arising from the use of this map.

VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
1391 Engineer Street • Vista, California 92081-8840
Phone (760) 597-3100 • Fax: (760) 598-8757
www.vidwater.org

Board of Directors
Marty Miller, *President, Division 1*
Frank Nuñez, *Division 2*
Peter Kuchinsky II, *Division 3*
Patrick H. Sanchez., *Division 4*
Jo MacKenzie, *Division 5*

Administrative Staff
Brett L. Hodgkiss
General Manager
Ramae A. Ogilvie
Board Secretary
Elizabeth A. Mitchell
General Counsel

August 17, 2026

Supervisor Jim Desmond, District 5
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway, #335
San Diego, CA 92101

(sent via email to jim.desmond@sdcounty.ca.gov)

Re: Proposed Alignments for the Golden Pacific Powerlink Transmission Line Project

Dear Supervisor Desmond,

The Vista Irrigation District (District) is concerned about the potential adverse impacts to water supply, water quality, and fire protection from San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E)'s proposed Golden Pacific Powerlink (Project). The Project is a proposed 500-kilovolt transmission line being developed by SDG&E that would travel from the Imperial Valley through San Diego County to a future substation in Orange County. The Project's preliminary alignments would cut cross land owned by the District in Warner Springs, in San Diego County.[1]

The District is a public agency that provides water service to over 135,000 people in the city of Vista, and portions of San Marcos, Escondido, Oceanside and unincorporated areas of San Diego County. Primarily for water supply and water quality protection, we own and manage Lake Henshaw, Henshaw Dam, and the surrounding 43,000-acres that overlie the Warner Valley Groundwater Basin (Warner Ranch); typically, 15 to 25 percent of the District's water comes from Lake Henshaw. We also have various land use agreements for portions of the Warner Ranch, including cattle grazing, recreation, wireless telecommunications, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), United States Department of Navy Remote Training Site Warner Springs and other governmental uses. The District is committed to environmental stewardship and being a responsible part of the community.

Lake Henshaw is a raw water reservoir that captures surface water runoff from the watershed during wet weather and is augmented through pumping from the Warner Basin during dry periods. The lake is fed by runoff from several streams within the watershed, including the pristine West Fork of the San Luis Rey River, and has a direct hydraulic connection with groundwater. Water released downstream from Lake Henshaw

[1] Information on the Project's preliminary alignments are from SDG&E's webpage at: https://goldenpacificpowerlink.com/.

serves as an important source of supply not only for the District, but also for the City of Escondido, and five local, federally recognized tribes.[2]

The District has serious concerns about potential negative impacts resulting from construction and final placement of a proposed large-scale transmission line across District land. Given the interconnected nature of groundwater and surface water, construction activities risk altering hydrologic flows, degrading water quality, and introducing contaminants into Lake Henshaw. Furthermore, permanent transmission infrastructure poses long-term risks to both water production and water quality, which could directly impair the District's ability to protect and manage our water supply.

Additionally, several faults cross the Warner Basin, including the Elsinore Fault Zone, with evidence of recent seismic activity. The presence of these faults raises concerns about the suitability of the proposed location due to the risk of earthquake-related damage and disruption of reliable power for groundwater pumping and fire protection following a seismic event.

Lastly, the District's groundwater wells and Lake Henshaw serve as essential water sources for firefighting agencies during emergencies. This was recently demonstrated during the Grade Fire, which began on property adjacent to District lands on July 31, 2026. Cal Fire relied on the District's groundwater wells and water from Lake Henshaw to suppress the fire. These local resources played a vital role in fire suppression efforts, helping limit the burn area to around 700 acres. A transmission-line related wildfire, or an incident that damages or limits access to the District's groundwater wells or Lake Henshaw when the immediate demand for those resources is greatest could have devastating impacts to the District's water supply as well as to the local community.

Considering the importance of Lake Henshaw and the Warner Ranch, the District plans to actively engage throughout the Project's stakeholder and environmental review process to ensure these important resources remain protected.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information at (760) 597-3162 or BHodgkiss@vidwater.org. Alternatively, you may contact the District's Director of Water Resources, Lesley Dobalian, at (760) 597-3112 or LDobalian@vidwater.org.

Sincerely,

Brett Hodgkiss
General Manager

CC: County of San Diego Board of Supervisors
Darren Gretler, Chief of Staff
Lesley Dobalian, Director of Water Resources

[2] The San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act of 1988, along with subsequent related agreements, established local water supply rights among the City of Escondido, the Vista Irrigation District, and the five bands of Mission and Luiseño Indians—specifically the La Jolla, Pauma, Rincon, Pala, and San Pasqual Bands—which together comprise the San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority.

Outlook

golden pacific powerlink

From Pam Nelson
Date Thu 10/1/2026 12:31 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello, Vista Irrigation District (VID) staff and associates,
As residents of Warner Springs, we are always concerned about the actions of VID since the District is a large landowner and uses the basin's groundwater.

The economy and quality of life of our valley depends on water, aesthetics and infrastructure. Now that we are facing the proposed Golden Pacific Powerlink's (GPP) possible route through our area, we are extremely concerned. This line would significantly degrade our region's viability.

We ask you to oppose the GPP on paper and with pledges and actions. Please consider this topic and action at your Board meeting on Oct. 14th.

Sincerely,
Pam and Greg Nelson

Save Our Heritage Organisation
Protecting San Diego's architectural and cultural heritage since 1969

September 28, 2026

Vista Irrigation District
Attn: Board Secretary / Board of Directors
1391 Engineer Street
Vista, CA 92081-8840

Dear President Miller and Members of the Board:

On behalf of Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO), I am writing to urge the Vista Irrigation District to formally oppose the proposed Golden Pacific Powerlink and any alignment that would cross District property in the Warner Springs area.

SOHO has a particularly direct interest in this issue. The Vista Irrigation District owns and stewards the Warner Ranch, including the Warner–Carrillo Ranch House, and SOHO has the privilege of operating and interpreting the Ranch House on behalf of the District. Our staff work at the site, welcome visitors, conduct tours and educational programs, and are responsible for helping the public understand the extraordinary history of this place and its landscape.

Because of that relationship, we have a deep appreciation for what makes the Warner Ranch so significant. It is not simply the historic adobe building itself. The extraordinary value of the Warner–Carrillo Ranch House derives in large part from its setting within an expansive, remarkably intact historic landscape.

For generations, the ranch and its surrounding landscape have remained remarkably free of the kind of intensive development that has transformed so much of Southern California. Visitors can still experience the relationship between the historic ranch house, the surrounding open landscape, the historic travel routes and the broader Warner Valley in a way that is increasingly rare.

Today, this is the ONLY place that visitors can still stand where generations of travelers got their first glimpse of the "promised land" after crossing hundreds of miles along the Southern Emigrant Trail, today looking across an unspoiled horizon largely unchanged by time is an unparalleled experience.

The Warner–Carrillo Ranch House is a powerful example of what preservation, conservation, and collaboration can achieve: a place where architecture, history, and landscape remain inseparable. The introduction of industrial-scale transmission infrastructure into this setting would irreparably diminish one of California's most authentic and significant historic landscapes.

That is why we are deeply concerned about the proposed Golden Pacific Powerlink.

A 500-kilovolt transmission project would introduce industrial-scale infrastructure into a landscape whose historic significance depends upon its openness, integrity and relationship to the surrounding land. The impacts would not be limited to the towers themselves. Construction would require access roads, staging areas and other infrastructure, while a permanent transmission corridor would create a long-term industrial presence across a landscape that has remained remarkably intact.

SOHO strongly supports the concerns the District has already expressed regarding the potential impacts of the project on water supply, water quality, groundwater resources and fire protection. The District has correctly recognized that the interconnected nature of surface water and groundwater makes construction and permanent infrastructure in this area a serious matter. The recent Grade Fire also demonstrated just how essential Lake Henshaw and the District's groundwater wells are as emergency firefighting resources.

From SOHO's perspective, these concerns are inseparable from the protection of the Warner Ranch's historic and cultural resources. The same landscape that protects the District's water resources also provides the setting for one of San Diego County's most important historic places.

The Warner–Carrillo Ranch House is a National Historic Landmark, but its significance does not stop at the walls of the building. The

surrounding landscape is an essential part of the story. Historic travel corridors, Indigenous history, ranching history, archaeological resources, the watershed and the open landscape all contribute to the integrity and meaning of this extraordinary place.

The introduction of industrial-scale transmission infrastructure would permanently alter that setting. It could affect historic viewsheds, scenic character, dark skies, wildlife movement and the visitor experience, while contributing to the cumulative industrialization of a landscape that has remained unusually intact.

SOHO therefore respectfully asks the Vista Irrigation District to formally oppose the Golden Pacific Powerlink.

We believe the District has both a responsibility and an important opportunity to protect the Warner Ranch, Lake Henshaw and the surrounding landscape from a project that could have consequences extending far beyond the immediate transmission corridor.

We also urge the District to advocate for a full and transparent examination of alternatives that avoid District lands, critical water infrastructure, sensitive historic and cultural resources, and other protected landscapes.

SOHO values its longstanding relationship with the Vista Irrigation District and the opportunity to help care for and interpret the Warner–Carrillo Ranch House. We believe the best way to honor that shared stewardship is to protect not only the historic structure itself, but the extraordinary landscape that gives the place its meaning.

The Warner Ranch and Lake Henshaw represent an exceptional convergence of history, culture, water, conservation and open space. Once that landscape is fundamentally altered by industrial-scale transmission infrastructure, its historic character cannot be restored.

We respectfully urge the District to stand in opposition to the Golden Pacific Powerlink and to protect this irreplaceable resource for future generations.

Sincerely,



Bruce Coons
Executive Director
Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO)

October 7, 2026

Vista Irrigation District Board of Directors
1391 Engineer Street
Vista, CA 92081

RE: Support for Vista Irrigation District Opposition to the Golden Pacific Powerlink

Dear President Miller and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the **Anza-Borrego Foundation (ABF) and the Chaparral Lands Conservancy (TCLC)**, we write in strong support of the Vista Irrigation District's opposition to the proposed Golden Pacific Powerlink (GPP) and the District's efforts to protect Lake Henshaw, Warner Ranch, and the surrounding landscape.

ABF is the nonprofit cooperating association for Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, California's largest state park. TCLC works to protect shrubland ecosystems as an integral and beautiful feature of California's natural landscape through land preservation and stewardship. Encompassing approximately 650,000 acres, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park protects an extraordinary landscape of designated wilderness, critical wildlife habitat and movement corridors, cultural resources, dark skies, and some of the most intact desert ecosystems remaining in Southern California. Other areas outside the Park support globally significant biodiversity and are important to the success of regional habitat conservation plans in Orange, Riverside, and San Diego counties, such as San Diego's North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan.

ABF and TCLC strongly oppose the Golden Pacific Powerlink because proposed routes would establish a massive new 500-kV transmission corridor through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and other sensitive natural lands across the region. We do not believe California should sacrifice protected lands when the project's actual need is in question and less damaging alternatives have not been fully examined.

The District's concerns closely align with our own. The proposed corridor would be constructed through Anza-Borrego, Warner Ranch, and the Lake Henshaw Valley, linking impacts to the Park with impacts to the lands and resources managed by the District. The District has appropriately raised concerns about the potential consequences of the Powerlink on its watershed, water resources, and wildfire protection. We are also concerned about the broader ecological consequences of establishing a major new energy infrastructure corridor stretching across the State Park and Lake Henshaw Valley landscapes.

In a very real sense, **Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Vista Irrigation District are neighbors in this fight.** We each have a responsibility to protect important natural landscapes along the same proposed energy corridor. What happens to one part of this connected landscape cannot be viewed in isolation from what happens nearby.

This is also about the precedent established by where major electricity infrastructure is allowed to go. Routing a new 500-kV transmission corridor through designated wilderness, conserved lands, important watersheds, wildlife habitat, and rural backcountry risks establishing a troubling precedent in which protected and rural landscapes become the path of least resistance for major electricity infrastructure projects. We believe those protections should carry real weight when evaluating alternatives.

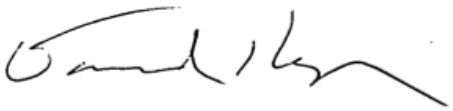
For these reasons, **Anza-Borrego Foundation and The Chaparral Lands Conservancy strongly support the Vista Irrigation District's opposition to the Golden Pacific Powerlink.** We stand with the District in protecting the Lake Henshaw Valley, Warner Ranch, and watersheds, wildlife habitat, and the broader interconnected natural landscape from unnecessary impacts associated with the Golden Pacific Powerlink.

We appreciate the District's leadership and **respectfully encourage the Board to formally oppose the Golden Pacific Powerlink and remain actively engaged as the project moves toward review by the California Public Utilities Commission.**

Sincerely,



Jaime Purinton
Project Lead
Anza-Borrego Foundation



David Hogan
Executive Director
The Chaparral Lands Conservancy