

# Park stands firm against power line

By Marianne Napoles

Officials with Southern California Edison and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) are moving into high gear as they prepare for a Jan. 10 hearing in which alternative routes for the Tehachapi power line project will be presented.

CPUC President Michael Peavey visited Chino Hills for the second time Dec. 21, when he toured both Aerojet and Chino Hills State Park with a multitude of high-profile representatives and attorneys from all parties involved in the power line dispute.

Ron Krueper, State Parks district superintendent for the Inland Empire District, provided all in attendance with a park map and description of facilities, trails, and the park mission. He said if the power line goes through the State Park, it would involve a lengthy General Plan amendment requiring public review.

"We are always looking at ways to reduce infrastructure in the State Park, per our General Plan, not adding to or re-

calling it," Mr. Krueper said. "Our stand is the same as two years ago: that Edison's preferred route through Chino Hills is what we support."

In 2008, the City of Chino Hills proposed a package of measures designed to offset the environmental impacts of the route through the State Park that included land acquisition, removal of certain existing lines, habitat restoration, and \$50 million.

Mr. Krueper said the State Park, throughout the entire process, did not consider it plausible that the \$50 million or other measures could actually be realized. He referred to the CPUC decision of December 2009 that stated that contribution of funds to unspecified future programs, improvements, or actions is not appropriate mitigation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The final report also stated that the city's offer of land acquisition to expand the State Park is not needed to mitigate the project's impacts on biological resources, and the city's offer to restore habitat is not an appropriate mitigation

under CEQA. "My position and charge as a district superintendent is the stewardship of the park," he said.

Before visiting the State Park, officials of CPUC, Edison, and Aerojet toured a portion of Aerojet Ordnance Co., the former munitions plant on Woodview Road adjacent to Vellano County Club. Explosives were developed, assembled, and tested for the Department of Defense at the Aerojet site from 1954 to 1995.

A gas-insulated switching station is proposed on the southern portion of the Aerojet property under the city's suggested alternative route through the State Park.

Aerojet attorney Tom Donnelly informed the CPUC during testimony in 2009 that if Edison were ordered to construct transmission infrastructure on Aerojet property, the electric utility would have to take steps to ensure no further corrective measures relating to munitions and explosives are required. That decision is in the hands of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Mr. Donnelly said.

## Courts offer 50 percent off ticket amnesty program

By Josh Thompson

Drivers with outstanding traffic tickets that were due to be paid before Jan. 1, 2009 are eligible for a 50 percent discount through a traffic amnesty program in place Jan. 1 to June 30, 2012.

The program was implemented to provide relief to motorists who are in violation of a court-ordered obligation because they are financially unable to pay traffic bail or fines, according to the Superior Court news release.

All 58 counties, including San Bernardino, are mandated under Assembly Bill 1350 to allow a one-time amnesty period that allows a lump sum payment of 50

percent of the outstanding balance on certain violations to satisfy their court-ordered obligation.

Parking tickets, driving under the influence and reckless driving cases are not eligible.

Payments can be made by credit card, cash, cashier's check, money orders and personal checks. To be eligible, the motorist must have either failed to appear in court or failed to pay in full, and have made no payment since Jan. 1, 2009.

The motorist must not owe restitution to a victim on any case in the county where the traffic case was filed, and have no outstanding misdemeanor or felony warrants in the county.



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