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## Group asks state high court to stop Powerlink

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An environmental group is asking the California Supreme Court to stop the controversial Sunrise Powerlink, saying that the state Public Utilities Commission violated state law in approving it.

"They fell short in a couple of very important ways," said Steven Siegel, a lawyer with the Center for Biological Diversity, which filed a petition with the Supreme Court late Wednesday.

He said the process failed to provide enough information about how the 123-mile line from the Imperial Valley to San Diego would affect the environment and did not properly account, or mitigate, for the damage it caused.

The organization went to the Supreme Court to cover its bases because two separate state laws set out different appeals procedures for such decisions.

Friday, it plans to ask the PUC to reconsider its decision, as will UCAN, the Utility Consumers'

Action Network. As a result, it asked the Supreme Court to put off deciding what to do about Sunrise until after the PUC acts.

San Diego Gas & Electric says the \$2 billion power line is needed to increase reliability, import power from the sun and other non-fossil fuel sources and enable it to get cheaper electricity.

Aspokeswoman was not immediately available Thursday, but said earlier this week that the project has been properly considered by the PUC.

On Tuesday, the federal Bureau of Land Management approved the use of 85 miles of its land in San Diego and Imperial counties for the power line.

Critics of the line say it is not needed, too damaging to the environment and too expensive.

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