

Business Briefing

Sunrise Powerlink foes appeal to state high court

2:00 a.m. August 13, 2009

Opponents of San Diego Gas & Electric's Sunrise Powerlink filed appeals before the California Supreme Court and a state court yesterday saying the state regulators botched the line's approval by neglecting to consider other options.

The Center for Biological Diversity and UCAN, the Utility Consumers' Action Network, said in a court filing that the California Public Utilities Commission didn't take greenhouse gas emissions into account and failed to fully consider running the power line down Interstate 8.

They also said the PUC violated state environmental rules by not adequately studying the final route snaking through the deserts and mountains of East County.

In a filing before the Fourth District Court of Appeal, UCAN argued that the PUC didn't consider alternatives, used the wrong burden of proof and relied on information opponents didn't have a chance to challenge.

Onell R. Soto

Macy's quarter earnings up, beating expectations

Macy's boosted its profit outlook after reporting that its second-quarter earnings beat expectations because it benefited from streamlining its structure.

Though the department store operator said it doesn't expect consumer spending to improve much in the critical months ahead, its shares rose 6 percent yesterday.

Macy's earned \$7 million, or 2 cents per share, in the quarter that ended Aug. 1. That compares with \$73 million, or 17 cents per share, last year.

Excluding restructuring charges, the company earned 20 cents per share, exceeding the profit of 15 cents per share that analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters forecast on average.

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State's June exports fall 25% from a year ago

California exports fell 25 percent in June from the same period a year ago and were at their lowest level since 2005. The figure was released by the University of California Center Sacramento based on data from the U.S. Commerce Department.

Figures show the state sent \$10 billion worth of products abroad in June. That was up \$479 million from May, but down from \$13.3 billion in June 2008.

International trade and economics adviser Jock O'Connell said the slight increase between May and June did not signal an economic turnaround. June's exports are historically higher than those in May, he said.

Exports of manufactured goods were down 29 percent from June 2008, while agricultural exports fell nearly 24 percent.

Through the first six months, exports are down 23 percent compared to 2008.

Associated Press

Best Buy goof offers 52" flat-screen TV for \$9.99

Few if any of the deals retailers have offered during the recession have been as good as Best Buy's sale price of \$9.99 on a 52-inch TV. But the offer was too good to be true.

The electronics retailer said it will not honor the \$9.99 price posted yesterday morning on its Web site for a 52-inch Samsung flat-screen TV. By early afternoon, the TV was listed at \$1,799.99, still almost half off the original \$3,399.99 price.

Bloggers and Twitterers lit up the Internet with posts about the offer, some insisting Best Buy must honor it, others making jokes.

Best Buy said it corrected the pricing error and will not honor the incorrect price. Orders made at the incorrect price will be canceled and customers will receive refunds, the company said.

Associated Press

Etc.

Redbox, the DVD rental kiosk company, said it has sued 20th Century Fox over the movie studio's attempts to delay its titles from appearing in Redbox vending machines.

Delta and US Airways have agreed to trade takeoff and landing slots at Washington's Reagan National and New York's LaGuardia airports.

Union-Tribune

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