

Comment Set 45**Email from Jaime and Ellen Saldana dated March 18, 2004**

From: Saldana, Jaime [Jaime.Saldana@ssa.ocgov.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2004 4:04 PM
To: 'viejosystem@aspeneq.com'
Subject: Input on Viejo Project

Sir/Madam, I am writing this a concerned resident who will be impacted the additional capacity that is associated with the Viejo Project. As I understand it, Aspen has suggested to the CPUC that Edison should be allowed to continue with the proposed project Viejo project as they find no issues that merit stopping the project. Pls see my concerns in response to this finding:

45-1

1. We are not objecting to additional capacity as well understand that the South County area is experiencing a tremendous amount of growth and the additional capacity is needed to handle that growth. We do, however, seriously object to the fact that the wires (both current and proposed) are to be placed above ground. There must be some way to bury the existing and the new wires that are proposed. I live in the Stoneridge project that parallels the Edison Right of Way, on Olympiad, (adjacent to the Chiquita station.). Homeowners in that neighborhood cannot fully enjoy their view from their back yards, because they have to look at either a massive metal towers in their line of sight, or a mass of wires strung across our otherwise undisturbed view. The wires are definitely an eyesore, and it is quite disconcerting to us that we have to live with this unsightly monstrosity (forgive the term, but I can think of no other word that adequately describes it) I would invite any one interested in verifying this to come to my back yard and look. .

45-2

2. There are definitely issues of devalued home prices associated with the eyesore. It does not take much analysis to find that a homebuyer would not pay as much for an unburdened view, than they would for a view such as I have. Estimates of lower value have been reported to be from between \$25 to much as \$150. A comparison of current comparables in areas not affected the wires/towers will bear this out.

45-3

3. I don't feel that EMF studies are conclusive in terms of their negative impact on human health. I have read much about the negative impacts in studies that point to EMF exposure at the cause of diseases and maladies such as Cancer, suicides, miscarriages, and others.

45-4

4. Note that I am including in my request the section of wires and towers that parallel Olympiad, roughly between La Paz, and Alicia, as well as those directly in the path of the Viejo project. Pls find a way to help us bury the lines, especially in areas that would have minimal impact on traffic and digging up roads; i.e., along Edison right-of-ways that are no more than dirt trails. This is a very important and personal issue. We WILL NOT GO AWAY. We are not in the dark ages anymore and I/WE urge Edison to do the RIGHT a MORAL thing, by burying the lines. I'm sure Edison does not want to find out a few years from now that EMF is more harmful than originally thought, or that the Impact study was flawed, or other such conditions that may cause expensive litigation in the future. Again, I urge Edison to listen to their customers and do what they know is right, rather than consider only what's best for profits and the corporate dollar. Pls put the impact on families ahead of profits. Thank you very much.

45-5

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Response to Comment Set 45

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- 45-1 The statement that “Aspen has suggested to the CPUC that Edison should be allowed to continue with the proposed project Viejo project as they find no issues that merit stopping the project” is incorrect. Aspen Environmental Group was contracted by the CPUC to assist the CPUC in conducting the environmental analysis of the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of CEQA and CEQA Guidelines Appendix G (Environmental Checklist Form). Based on the MND/IS, the environmental analysis supports a conclusion that the proposed Viejo System Project, with mitigation, would not have any significant effects on the environment, as defined by the CEQA. The environmental document does not make a recommendation whether or not to approve the project. The Commissioners will consider many factors, including the potential environmental effects, in their final decision to approve or deny SCE’s application for a Permit to Construct.
- 45-2 The CPUC appreciates the community’s concern for aesthetics and will consider this concern in rendering a decision on the proposed project. Section B.3.3 (Aesthetics) of the Mitigated Negative Declaration contains detailed analysis of the potential visual impacts associated with the proposed project.
- 45-3 Please see General Response GR-2 for information regarding property values.
- 45-4 Please see General Response GR-1 for information regarding EMF.
- 45-5 Please see General Response GR-3 for information regarding the undergrounding of electrical transmission lines, as well as Appendix 8, which discusses various route options considered by the CPUC.