

Comment Set C.155: Kelley Michel

----- Forwarded by Jody Noiron/R5/USDAFS on 09/30/2006 12:45 PM -----

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09/29/2006 11:22 AM

To

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cc

Subject

opposition letter to Aspen Group Re: Alt route 5

Kelley Michel
39190 Bouquet Canyon Rd.
Leona Valley, Ca. 93551
661-270-9553

09-09-06

John Boccio/Marian Kadota
CPUC/USDA Forest Service
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215
Agoura Hills, Ca. 91301

Re: Opposition of proposed alternate route 5, Antelope Pardee 500-KV Transmission Project, to be read into the record

Dear Mr. Boccio/ Ms. Kadota,

This letter is to protest the proposed Alternate route 5 that will be running through our community of Leona Valley. After the meeting on August 28th, I was sickened and appalled that Edison/Aspen would actually be thinking of putting a high tension wire through a populated area and virtually destroying the lives and property of the residents of our community. How could this route be a better solution than putting it through a already existing corridors as set forth in the proposed route, which runs along a ridge route where it harms no one. Forgive me if I don't loose sleep over the impact that this power line would have on the mustard weed and a few coyotes among the National Forest. Keep in mind that this National Forest that were talking about here is not thousand year old Redwood, Oaks or Sequoia, it's tumbleweed, sage brush and mustard weed. All of this will grow back within a month of mowing it down, as my 6 acres would prove. I love our National forests and visit them often, but at no time should people be put in harms way and a community destroyed for the sake of another line through an area that

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already has a ready made easement for additional lines. Our community on the other hand would not be so fortunate; we would be living with 18 story mega electrical towers in our front yards.

In my opinion Aspen Environmental is not, in there words “a non bias group” when their presentation and their facts are deceitful. While giving their presentation, they maximized the harmful impacts to the NFS lands while trying to minimize the same harmful impacts on our valley community. The pictures that they took of our valley were taken at an angle that gives the impression that there are no houses that would be effected. This is a blatant misrepresentation of the impact on our community, and I would like to know where I can send my own pictures that correctly represent our town. Their pictures of the power lines were not given a proper perspective to give us a good idea of how big they were until one of our own residents said they were 18 to 20 stories tall. I ask you, would you want this in your front yard? There also is a favoritism of saving the revenue making Veluzat Motion Picture Ranch and the Bouquet Cyn. Stone Quarry in Alternative 1. I noticed that they were mentioned throughout the Executive Summery Draft by name, while the communities in Alt.5 are not. They made mention of Route 5 only as privately owned parcels, one or more homes, scattered tracts, built environment, inhabited rural and semi rural land. The impact on our community would be worse than their horrific reasons they gave as to not put the route through NFS lands, because of the human factor involved. Here are some of the same reasons they gave EXCEPT to how it would impact our community;

Geology: Earthquake and Liquefaction; we live ON the San Andreas fault! Leona Valley is in a liquefaction area and the damage should one of these things topple or have a downed power line in a neighborhood would be tragic. They would cause death, damage and fire.

Water quality; a lot of us are on wells which could be effected by ground disturbance, severe erosion and sedimentation from new unpaved roads, drilling, compaction, soil and ground contamination. There is also the concern of improper handling and storage of hazardous materials during construction and maintenance.

Air quality: The health impact of the people that the line traverses would be staggering for years to come. The EMF that is put out by these lines accounts for childhood leukemia and spontaneous abortions and cancer. There are also the problems with radio and TV interference, corona noise and construction emissions.

Fire danger: There is the problem of water dropping helicopters not being able to reach some areas due to the interference of these towers, would cause loss of homes and subject ground crews to danger.

Biological: The same animals that live in the NFS live on our properties as well. We also have domestic animals that could suffer the same effects as the wild.

Permanent
land

disturbance: The loss of existing homes and the displacement of family properties that Edison need to acquire for building is tragic. I doubt that these people would get a fair market value for their property and would be forced into an increased tax base if forced to relocate to a comparable property. With the grading for footing holds and spur roads, the degradation of our recreational trails would affect the lifestyle that we moved here for. Visual; These lines would turn our once beautiful views into an eye sore. Aspen would have you believe these towers would benefit the scenic integrity and character of the landscape (class IV), of the view from Bouquet Cyn rd.. I live on Bouquet Cyn. and I can tell you it will not be a benefit to my view or any of my numerous neighbors's views.

Construction: Work crews from 20 to 120 people would be working Monday thru Saturday from 06:30 to 5:00 causing major disruptions in our community during times of ingress and egress. We live in a rural area where adults and their children spend a lot of time out of doors caring for animals and enjoying our country lifestyle. There are 33 towers traversing private property being put in by helicopter, hauling steel towers, electrical lines and hazardous materials. Going out of doors or letting your children out to play will be a thing of the past with all this going on overhead, and on the ground.

Economics: Aspen puts our community in a class 3 (less than significant) for a decrease in property values. I must argue that when people are looking to buy in our area, they are looking at several acres of home and property with beautiful unobstructed vistas of mountains and valleys. Having a power corridor traversing through it all would greatly reduce what was once prime real estate and lifestyle.

In conclusion, Aspen would have you believe that Alternate 5 would have short term impacts on our community when in fact we should qualify under the same long term effects as they apply to the NFS. But since it involves human beings we don't rate up there with vegetation and wildlife. If in fact this line is supposed to be put in at a reasonable price, safely, and keep the impact at a minimum, then why is Alt.5 even being seriously considered? This route costs more, is the longest and takes the longest to finish. I would like to stress once again that the original Proposed project plan is the one that should be used and would have the least impact to all the citizens in every city these Edison lines would affect.

Thank you,

Kelley Michel

cc: The Honorable Julie Halligan
Supervisor Jody Noiron
The Honorable Mayor Michael Antonovich
The Honorable Howard (Buck) McKeon
The Honorable George Runner

The Honorable Sharon Runner
The Honorable Audra Strickland
The Honorable Dr. Keith Richman
The Honorable Mayor Laurene Weste
Mr. Terry Kenney

Response to Comment Set C.155: Kelley Michel

C.155-1 The above comments were previously submitted by the commenter and responses were prepared as Comment Set C.146.