

Comment Set C.161: Gary Hebdon and Darlene Mailhes

From: Gary & Darlene [mailto:heb@thevine.net]

Sent: Mon 10/2/2006 9:45 PM

To: The Honorable Julie Halligan (Administrative Law Judge); Jody Noiron (Angeles National Forest Supervisor); Antelope-Pardee Project

Cc: The Honorable Michael Antonovich; Linda Lambourne (The Honorable Buck McKeon us Rep 25th District); The Honorable Senator George Runner (CA State Senator); The Honorable Sharon Runner (CA State Assembly District 36); The Honorable Audra Strickland (CA State Assembly District 38); Catherine Kennedy (ASM CA GOV); The Honorable Mayor Laurene Weste (City of Santa Clarita); Mr. Donal MacAdam (President Agua Dulce Town Council); Mr. Ray Garwacki, Jr. (President Acton Town Council); Mr. Terry Kenney (Member @ Large Leona Valley Town Council); Mr. Dennis Bushore (President, Coussoulis Development Company); Mrs. Lillian Smith (President, The Country Journal); Agua Dulce Civic Association; Marian Kadato (Forest Service, EIS Project Mgr); John Boccia (CPUC EIR Project Mgr); C L U (CPUC); Hcronin (WATER-CA); T R F (CPUC); Claufenb (ENERGY STATE CA); T B O (CPUC); T C X (CPUC); O M V (CPUC); A J O (CPUC); Terry Water (CA GOV); Grosenblum (CAISO); E-Reipient (CAISO); N Rader (CALWEA); Keith White; S S Myers (ATT); M Mattes (Nossaman); Cem (News Data); Jay 2 (PGE); Diane Fellman (FPL); M D Joseph (Adams Broadwell); C A Carol (123); California Horseman; Hal (RWITZ); Ko' Beirne (SEMPRA UTILITIES); Liddell Energy Attorney; Erin Moore (SCE); Case Administrator (SCE); RMD (CPUC); C Moore (Coxcastle); Mike Mackness (SCE); M E Allen (Sempra); LAU (CPUC); BXLC (PGE); JWMcTarnaghan (duanemorris); DTK5 (PGE); C T E (ESLAWFIRM); James Caldwell (PPM ENERGY); Porter (Exeter Associates); F Yanney (Fulbright); C Faber (SEMPRA UTILITIES)

Subject: Alternative 5 Antelope-Pardee 500kv Transmission Line Project

Please see Public Comment ATTACHMENT in regards to Alternative 5
Antelope-Pardee 500kv Transmission Line Project

Thank you

From: Gary Hebdon & Darlene Mailhes
10511 Ares St., Agua Dulce, CA 91390
661-268-1162

Sent: Monday, October 2, 2006

Subject: **Antelope-Pardee 500kv Transmission Project Alternate 5**
Proposed by Southern California Edison Application No. A04-12-007

Attn: Mr. John Boccio, CPUC, EIR Project Manager, Marian Kadota, Forest Service,
EIS Project Manager, Aspen Environmental Group, Honorable Judge Julie
Halligan

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This letter is written in response to the proposed Alternate 5 Antelope Pardee 500kv Transmission Project proposed by Southern California Edison. My family and I oppose the Alternate 5 project for the following reasons:

Existing power lines from previous projects can be seen on the ridgelines of the mountains bordering highway 14, approximately three miles southwest from our living room window. Even at that distance the negative impact on the beauty of the ridgelines is unmistakable. The proposed route of alternate 5 will be placed within one mile of most Agua Dulce residences, prominently jutting from the scenic ridgelines of the surrounding mountains. This is a direct assault on Agua Dulce's residents, the natural resources that attract thousands of visitors to Vasquez Rocks County Park each year, and the scenery that provides pristine backdrops for a host of movies.

- The historic beauty of Vasquez Rocks and the Pacific Crest Trails will be irreversibly marred. Both are visited weekly by hundreds of hiking and riding visitors and filming crews. The degradation of recreational trails will contribute to long-term loss for areas characterized by open space. This constitutes a huge impact on the socioeconomic aspects of the surrounding environment. | C.161-1
- Alternative 5 effects 103 privately owned parcels in both Agua Dulce and Leona Valley and will displace families and businesses. This is unacceptable when there currently exists a transmission line throughout our national forest that can be upgraded. | C.161-2
- Alternative 5 will severely reduce property values in surrounding communities due to the monstrous visual height of the towers. The towers will significantly alter the natural scenic quality creating significant unavoidable impacts and degradation to our properties. | C.161-3
- Alternative 5 creates a greater fire risk to human life and property than the original proposal or any of the other alternatives due to the proximity of the transmission line towers to high fire risk communities with limited water sources and rural roads. . | C.161-4
- The route of alternative 5 parallels a high pressure gas line for significant distances. This constitutes added concern for disaster scenarios where possible earthquake faults might create potential for explosions. | C.161-5
- Alternate 5 constitutes the highest potential environmental impact of all options for noise and dust pollution upon adjacent communities except alternative 1. | C.161-6
- Aside from all the environmental impacts, it is clear that alternative 5 project will be the most costly of all options based upon the need to provide a longer route and more double circuit towers. It is not financially responsible or economically feasible when compared to the other options. | C.161-7
- Given the significant areas of impact that alternative 5 raises, it is requested that a 90 day extension be provided in order to allow for the preparation of a full report that clearly spells out the pros and cons of pursuing this alternative. | C.161-8

Sincerely,

Gary Hebdon
Darlene Mailhes
10511 Ares Street, Agua Dulce, CA 91390

Response to Comment Set C.161: Gary Hebdon and Darlene Mailhes

- C.161-1 Specific impacts to the Veluzat Motion Picture Ranch were completed for the Draft EIR/EIS due to the Veluzat Motion Picture Ranch providing comments and concerns of the proposed Project route early in the public scoping process. As discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.12.6, operational impacts to the Veluzat Motion Picture Ranch were found to be significant and unavoidable. It is addressed that Agua Dulce is used as a filming location, as all public and private lands could potentially be used for filming activities. Similar to the analysis provided for the Veluzat Motion Picture Ranch in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.12.6, impacts to filming in Agua Dulce would be visual related. Urban areas within Agua Dulce would not be impacted visually by the proposed Alternative 5 infrastructure, as electrical infrastructure is considered part of the urban landscape, and would not eliminate these areas as filming locations. However, as discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.15.10.2, impacts to the visual quality of the Vasquez Rocks as a result of Alternative 5 would be significant and unavoidable. While these impacts were found to be significant and unavoidable, economic film industry related impacts to the Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park are unlike the Veluzat Motion Picture Ranch, which is a land use specifically designated for filming activities only. The Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park is not a specific filming location, and has a primary purpose of being a public recreational use area. Furthermore, due to the proposed linear route of Alternative 5, and the size and topography of the Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park, it is believed that locations would continue to be available within the Park that would provide similar background views for filming without views of the proposed Alternative 5 infrastructure.
- C.161-2 A number of alternative routes were identified during the Scoping process to avoid the impacts of SCE's proposed Project. See General Response GR-4 regarding the alternatives identification process for the Project. SCE's proposed Project and several of the alternatives analyzed in the EIR/EIS include the use of existing transmission rights-of-way. However, the proposed Project and each of the alternatives would require the acquisition of land for right-of-way purposes, either for new transmission corridors or for widening of existing transmission corridors. Please see General Response GR-4 regarding the development of alternative routes outside of NFS lands. As discussed in Section C.9.10.2, the alternative alignment would be constructed across 103 privately owned parcels. The majority of land uses that would be restricted as a result of Alternative 5 would be the erection of new structures within the alternative ROW. However, given that SCE has not conducted construction or final alignment and design studies for Alternative 5, the EIR/EIS has assumed that the removal of one or more homes may occur. As such, Section C.9.10.2 (Impact L-3) concluded that potential impacts to residential land uses as a result of Alternative 5 would be significant and unavoidable.
- C.161-3 Please see General Response GR-1 regarding potential effects on property values.
- C.161-4 We recognize that Alternative 5 would constrain the ability to aggressively fight a wildland fire in the vicinity of the route, and could create additional fire risks to inhabited areas such as Leona Valley and Agua Dulce (see discussion in Section D.5). Your concerns will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.
- C.161-5 Crossing the San Andreas Fault is unavoidable for the proposed transmission line as well as many existing transmission lines and other types of infrastructure. The fault crossing as well as other

potential hazards and constraints are taken into consideration in the engineering design of the transmission line. Transmission line risk due to earthquake-related ground rupture is discussed in Section C.5.5. Also, see Impact G-4 for a discussion of impacts and mitigation measures.

C.161-6 Comment noted.

C.161-7 Although project cost is not discussed in the Draft EIR/EIS, we agree that due to the increased length of Alternative 5, it would cost substantially more than the proposed Project. Your comments will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.

C.161-8 On September 13, the CPUC and the Forest Service formally extended the public review period for the Draft EIR/EIS to October 3, 2006.