

Comment Set C.189: Laurie De Santis-Staschik and Family

Laurie De Santis-Staschik
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Leona Valley, CA 93551
September 29th, 2006

John Boccio/Marian Kadota
CPUC/USDA Forest Service
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215
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BY:.....

ATTENTION PUBLIC COMMENTS DEPT:

I am writing to you regarding the Alternative 5 double 500 kv transition lines that are planned to go through Leona Valley. Those same transmission lines are indicated to be located at approximately 300 feet of our home. I have two small children the ages of 3 and 1 year, who play in the dirt and love to play out doors. We also have 3 horses (1 of which I have had since I was a child) that graze on our property adjacent to where the proposal of a tower would be. Our family just moved here 1 and a half years ago to escape a severe allergy, reunite all of our animals and to home school our children in a rural environment.

As a Mother, wife and land owner I oppose Alternative 5 because of the poisoning of the ground water and surface water(no matter what the "mitigations" could be.), the air quality issues, the exposure to maintenance crews that are not screened as to their back round or prior felons or even respecting violence as to Megan's Law. The fire fighting issues, immanent domain issues, the property value issues, the unsightliness of the towers, the EMF issues, other health issues, animal health issues, our businesses being affected because of our computers, radio and television are stated to be "disrupted" in the EIR, our way of life would be damaged, and more. . Any one of these issues alone is a reason to stop Alternative 5! The residents of Leona Valley are not less important than the public land that has been set aside for such proposals and I find it unethical for anyone to consider. Furthermore, I suggest that Governor Schwarzenegger make a "mandate" to slowly update our electrical system to the quality that European countries have who don't have these issues at all, instead of forcing a mandate that maybe unhealthy for Californians.

C.189-1

According to the Draft Summary EIR our **ground and surface** water not only WOULD be contaminated but the families who have wells may suddenly be with out water due to ground shifting during construction. Families using wells (which is a large part of our community) would have to get alternative means of water or sell their property which would have a huge property value decrease, if they could sell at all.

C.189-2

We just planted our organic produce for the season- we would never have organic (or otherwise) home grown produce again. Children in our community play in the Amorgosa creek which would be poisoned. Whole farms have the creek running through their crops

that would no longer be organic. It is interesting to note that agents for Aspen came on my property, took photos and saw my house the property the stables and the horses and yet in the EIR photos suggested that the property was mere raw land.

Our children and our livestock would certainly be subject to poisoning merely by playing in the grasses and the animals by grazing and there is no telling how the poisons would affect birds and other wild animals. Of course this does not just affect our community but all the communities running along the creek including Palmdale.

According to the Draft Summary EIR the air quality would reduce to below federal and state standards during construction as well as after, yet they dare to continue with this project. The Draft EIR cannot guarantee the safety of my children's, my neighbor's and my and my husband's health since the air quality can result in carcinogenic effects which could become a devastating disaster perhaps immediately or even as long as 20 years hence. I value my health, my children's and my neighbors' health and the air quality we have now! A great part of Leona Valley home schools, which means that **children and mothers** would be exposed to the air quality 24 hours a day. The mitigations claimed are not a guarantee of any mitigation of the potential injury to the community. For example I am a part time opera singer who could not continue singing and recording at home in that unsafe environment. There is also an **elementary school full of children** that would also be exposed to the sub-standard air quality. The damage therefore to our community could be disastrous.

C.189-3

When I moved to Leona Valley I was very diligent about checking Megan's Law for possible threats to my children. Leona Valley has NO(-ZERO) registered sex offenders. I check regularly to keep my children as safe as I can. Now with all the people working on these large facilities I will be unable to check their back rounds and Edison does not guarantee their back rounds. For that reason many Mothers would not let their children out of doors while those workers trample on our grounds. If Alternative 5 goes through there will be constant maintenance crews and personnel that would not have to be checked through Megan's Law. Leona Valley would then **be grossly unsafe for our children** as we would have no way to be informed of registered sex offenders who may be regularly working in our own backyards!

Leona Valley has had its share of fires in the area(one of which was started by a bird on a line) and most of them were fought by aerial assault. If those transmission lines are allowed, according to the DEIR we will no longer be able to utilize aerial assaults which would then place our properties in danger of total destruction. They would not be able to maneuver anywhere near the 200ft high power lines. The risk of fire reduces the value of our properties demonstrably. The whole town would be left defenseless!

C.189-4

Although there have been suggestions of immanent domain, that power is not available to SCE as a private enterprise so a government agency would have to provide that authority. May of us do not believe that a government authority should grant such authority to destroy communities to benefit a real estate developer at such a great cost.

We just bought our home at approximately slightly less than 600,000 and the emanate domain for the 30 properties would require over 18 million dollars cash not taking into account adjacent properties, bordering properties and surrounding properties.

C.189-5

These so called "500 kv lines" are falsely named they are double 500 kv lines or truly 1000 kv lines because they are twin towers and the EMF emanating from them would cause "leukemia, brain cancer, miscarriage" and other physical ailments according to the CPUC studies. It is clear to me that this would cause serious and deadly potential illness to our community which must not be tolerated for the sake of some unnecessary position of electrical lines. We are not mere animals to be tested to the extent to which we can accept these kinds of hazards. One illness of this type is more than enough.

C.189-6

The Daft EIR also admits that our radio, television and cable as well as computers and cell phone **operation would be disrupted**. This is unthinkable that ANY circumstances in today's electronic era. Businesses including my husbands could not operate and more importantly emergency contact could not function and we would be left to the mercy of the dangers inherent in the creation of these towers. I therefore urge that Alternative 5 be eliminated as well as any other alternative which affects Leona Valley.

In the meetings that were held OUTSIDE our community this September the Aspen group showed superimposed pictures of the towers from VERY FAR AWAY. These towers are not unimposing structures they are 200 FT. TALL. That is the size of a 25 story building! That unsightliness has no place in a rural environment! We paid for the views, the virgin rolling hills, pasture grounds, and searching skies-we do not want 200 foot towers in our community. Since we live right by an earthquake zone, if an earthquake causes a tower to fall it could be a disaster for my family and neighbors. We would have no way to load our animals and children to drive out. I do not want to live in such an unsafe community and why would any one else. Our property values will drop dramatically.

C.189-7

Indeed our very lives and way of live is being threatened. I believe you do not want to take part in this nightmare. Take a stand and say you will not let this atrocity continue. I look forward to a response from you. **Stand firm and stop Alternative 5 with us!**

Sincerely,



Laurie Anne De Santis-Staschik and Family

cc:

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Judy Noiron

Aspen Group

Richard A De Santis Attorney at Law

The Honorable George Runner, State Senator

The Honorable Sharon Runner, State Assembly District 36

The Honorable Michael Antonovich, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Leona Valley Town Council

USDA Forest Service

Response to Comment Set C.189: Laurie De Santis-Staschik and Family

- C.189-1 Thank you for your opinions regarding Alternative 5. To clarify, ground water and surface water would not be poisoned as a result of the Project. See response to Comment C.189-2, below. Furthermore, background checks of maintenance personnel are the responsibility of SCE and are not considered an environmental issue to be discussed in the Draft EIR/EIS.
- C.189-2 The supply and quality of water resources, including in the Leona Valley, would not be significantly affected by the proposed Project or an alternative. As discussed in Section C.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the EIR/EIS, implementation of the proposed Project or an alternative is not expected to significantly interfere with groundwater supply and recharge (Criterion HYD2), or with existing surface water drainage patterns (Criterion HYD3). If the proposed Project or an alternative is approved, the required implementation of mitigation measures during construction and operation would ensure protection of water resources. Therefore, the impacts as described by the commenter would not occur.
- C.189-3 Your concerns will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the proposed Project and Alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC. Please note that air quality impacts during construction for Alternative 5 have been identified as significant and unavoidable (Class I). With respect to issues regarding Megan's Law, please see the response to Comment C.189-1, above.
- C.189-4 We recognize that Alternative 5 would constrain the ability to aggressively fight a wildland fire in the vicinity of the route, and would 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.189-5 Please see General Response GR-2 regarding property acquisition. The total cost of land acquisition associated with Alternative 5, if approved, has not been determined.
- C.189-6 To clarify, between the Antelope Substation and the point at which the transmission line enters the existing Pardee-Vincent corridor, single-circuit 500-kV towers would be built as part of the Project. Within the Pardee-Vincent corridor, the existing northernmost single-circuit 500-kV towers (installed with 220-kV transmission lines) located within the corridor would be replaced with new double-circuit 500-kV towers to accommodate both the existing 220-kV line and the new 500-kV line. The double-circuit towers indicated that up to two separate 500-kV lines could be installed and no not result in a 1000 kV line. Please see General Response GR-3 regarding EMF concerns.
- C.189-7 Although radio and television interference (RI/TVI) can occur from transmission lines this is not a common and widespread phenomenon along transmission lines. The radio and television interference can vary from "static" sounds on AM radios to distorted TV reception and magnetic fields can cause computer monitors/screens to flicker. The majority of RI/TVI problems are traced to local electric distribution lines that serve residences and businesses, not high voltage transmission lines. When RI/TVI is generated by a line it does attenuate with lateral distance from transmission lines and is typically not an issue beyond a few hundred feet. As such, emergency and business operations would not be severely impacted as described by the commenter.

Please see the response to Comment E.18-7 regarding visual simulations. Please note that single-circuit 500-kV towers range from 113 to 178 feet. Double-circuit 500-kV towers range from 175 to 220 feet.

Impacts to towers resulting from an earthquake are discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.5 under Impact G-4 and G-5 and would be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures.