

Comment Set C.201: Mary and Joseph Dymerski

The Honorable Julie M. Halligan:

My husband and I moved our family to Leona Valley (a community in the southwest region of the Antelope Valley) almost 20 years ago. We wanted to live in a rural area with a bucolic environment where our children could have horses, belong to a local 4-H Club, be able to play with their neighborhood friends in the mountains behind our house, attend less congested schools and be free of gang and drug influences. We accomplished this for the most part, and although the Antelope Valley has grown from a population of 300,000 people to almost 1,000,000, Leona Valley has remained intact as a small, rural community. We have an elementary school (k-8th grade) where parents and grandparents actually volunteer their time; we have two churches, a small Mom and Pop market, two small restaurants, a feed store and a community center. Our town has a historical society, an improvement association, Sertoma, 4-H Club, and a quilt guild. Our town is known for its many "U-Pick" cherry orchards, and its annual cherry parade which is held every June. Our community center is used to facilitate horse shows, gymkhana events, the annual Sertoma BBQ, the quilt guild, the children's Halloween party, the Christmas boutique and many other private and public events.

If the power lines and subsequent easements are put through on route #5 it will bifurcate our valley. The mountain views and trails will be forever scared. Many local and non-local people ride their horses; walk their dogs, hike and bike on the secluded single track trails that lead up to the top of the ridge from our streets and residences.

Approximately 10 years ago, a man in his seventies, started planting forest service seedling pine trees along the route #5 ridge as his legacy to future generations. He, his family, friends and neighbors have helped to maintain the seedlings which are now fledgling pine trees.

People drive to Leona Valley to enjoy the poppies in the spring, and to pick cherries and other fruit in the summer. They come at other times of the year to visit friends, eat in our restaurants, drive around town, hike in our mountains, ride on our trails, and in general enjoy uninterrupted views of our beautiful mountains.

Leona Valley is virtually a one road town. Elizabeth Lake Road meanders through our narrow valley along the San Andreas fault line. Should an earthquake or fire occur, air rescue efforts would be greatly compromised by 200 foot towers on the ridge of our mountains.

Although it has not been 100% proven that electromagnetic fields associated with high tension power lines cause cancer and other brain anomalies, it is only a matter of time before studies will show proof. Preliminary research is tending to lead in that direction...by then route #5 could already be implemented and thus be a health hazard to all who live here.

C.201-1

C.201-2

Our three children are high school educators in the Antelope Valley. Our daughter, her husband and our grandchildren live in Leona Valley. Their home is on Lost Valley Ranch Road. They are in danger of having route #5 pass behind their house, possibly on their property. If this route is selected, it will force our family...and many others to relocate as we do not want to live under 200 foot high tension towers. Of course this will impact the community of Leona Valley (i.e. schools, churches, businesses, soccer and 4-H clubs etc.), the Antelope Valley (i.e. businesses and the high school district), the County of Los Angeles (i.e. businesses, teachers and taxes), and the State of California (businesses, teachers and taxes).

We have many neighbors who feel the same way. Leona Valley citizens have always been believers of responsible development. **The CPUC and ANF alternative route #5 is not responsible development** please review the facts. The original SCE proposal or alternatives #1 - #4 are more cost effective and have less impact on the Antelope Valley and Leona Valley in particular (i.e. de-value land, create health hazards and conflict with recreation, and natural habitat of an entire town). May God keep our community in your heart when you make your decision.

C.201-3

Sincerely, 
Mary and Joseph Dymerski
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CC George Runner, State Senator
Sharon Runner, State Assembly
Michael Antonovich, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California
John Boccio, EIR, CPUC
Aspen Environmental Group
Marian Kadota, USDA Forest Service

Response to Comment Set C.201: Mary and Joseph Dymerski

- C.201-1 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.201-2 Please see General Response GR-3 regarding EMF concerns.
- C.201-3 Thank you for your opinion regarding Alternative 5.