

Comment Form

West of Devers Upgrade Project
Riverside and San Bernardino Counties



BANNING

Please print legibly. For more information, visit the project web site:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/westofdevers/westofdevers.htm> Thank you for your comments.

Date: May 19 2014

Name*: Joel mendoza y Virginia mendoza

Affiliation (if any)*: _____

Address*: 55435 San Pierre R.d.

City, State, Zip Code*: White water C.A. 92282

Telephone Number*: 1 951 849 3573

Email*: _____

Comment*: No hablamos ingles.

Las torres de electricidad pasan a menos de 200 pies de mi casa. Tenemos dos hijos pequeños que juegan debajo de las lineas de electricidad quiciaramos saber si el riesgo de peligro es alto o se pasara algun accidente quien sera el responsable de resolver el problema.

gracias por su atencion.

Please send me notifications by: email mail I do not want to be on the project mailing list

*This information may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

Your comments will help determine the scope and content of the environmental document and identify alternatives and measures to reduce impacts. Submit comments by mail using this comment sheet (fold, stamp, and mail); attach additional sheets if needed. Please submit comments by June 12, 2014. You may also submit comments by email to westofdevers@aspeneq.com or by phone (888) 456-0254.

Speaker Registration Card

(Please Print)

Name: Edward Miller

Affiliation (if any): Banning City Council

BANNING 6/19

Is there any effect of the project
on the connection to the
Banning electric utility?

Email: West of Devers Upgrade Project EIR/EIS

From: robert wyser <bwyser2@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 10:17 AM
To: joseph.schaefer@sce.com
Cc: West Of Devers Project
Subject: West of Devers Upgrade Project

Attention: Mr. Schaefer and Public Scoping BLM staff.

Reference : Proposed Project to upgrade Transmission Line Segment 1, Loma Linda, CA.
Property 25926 Mission Road, Loma Linda, CA 02354-6526

I have some Questions and Commends in reference to your mailed Project Preparation of May 2014.

I`m the Owner of the Property, I`m 84 Years old and somewhat handicapped. Therefor, I will not be able to attend the Public Scoping Meeting in Loma Linda Civic Center on Tuesday May 20, 2014.

We have four Transmission Towers on our Land, they will be replaced by four new Towers. (I assume the new location is indicated by the outline of the wooden stakes in the Ground on the Property)

In your segment on "AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES", on the notice of Preparation I need clarification in reference to: " Temporary Impacts", " Potential Impacts", " Long term Impacts".

I assume you would have to remove some of our Orange trees to make room for the new Transmission Towers, I further assume that many more trees would be damaged during the construction process. To hear your assessment and solutions is appreciated.

I`m in particular concerned by your Statement:" **Project would potentially converted farmland to non-agricultural use.** Are you planning to implement zoning to eliminate agricultural use? Do you have an approximate Schedule (Time table) relocating the Transmission Towers, Line segment 1?

Mr. Schaefer, I do hope we find fair and equitable solutions to our concerns and work together as we have in the past.

Sincerely, Robert Wyser

SOUDER COMMENTS AT THE EDISON SCOPING MEETING IN BEAUMONT MAY 21, 2014

I spoke at the meeting in Beaumont and made the following comments (not necessarily in this order:
(Note that I am a resident of Solera at Oak Valley Greens, a 55+ community)

1. The current closest towers are approximately 100 ft. from the homeowners' property on the southern edge of the 300ft right of way. The location of the 2 new towers will be 50ft and 100ft from there. I believe that this will be highly objectionable to the property owners whose yards are up against that border. Especially since the new towers will be taller than the one that is currently the closest. The placement of the towers so much closer to the residents' property lines would likely lower property values and if they are placed there, there should be some compensation to the property owners. If the new towers were moved to 50ft inside of the North side of the 300ft right of way, they would be more than 100ft from any homes. This would be much better.
2. The truss style towers are unsightly and not very aesthetic. Pole type towers are used elsewhere in the electrical transmission system and would be much more tolerable (less objectionable?).
3. Although EMF radiation should theoretically be reduced due to the pairing of circuits, this issue of electromagnetic radiation is still a major concern. We have an Emergency Preparedness Committee in our Homeowners' Association. While doing radio testing with handheld, battery powered radios near the power lines, we noticed 60/120 cycle buzz in the radio audio. This implies that they are receiving radiation from the power lines. This should be explored further.
4. The Edison Right of way easement agreements for the 300ft wide and 100ft wide easements are dated 1961 and 1945 respectively. When we asked if we could have certain activities within the easements, Edison has told us no, even though it appears from the agreements that those things are permitted. I feel that Edison should review, and possibly rewrite the easement agreements and come to a new agreement with property owners. There are numerous examples of parks, RV storage facilities and landscape nurseries under power lines in similar conditions. As a minimum, Edison should provide copies of the latest easement requirements or expectations.
5. Edison should agree in writing to replace restore any landscape to current landscape conditions after any damage that the construction of the towers may cause.
6. Since it appears that Edison will be abandoning the 100ft wide right of way on the North side of the 300ft right of way, we would like for Edison to relinquish rights back to the land owners (Solera at Oak Valley Greens), or at least relax the restrictions there.

Comments not made at the meeting:

The Association has considered projects such as an outdoor concert area, additional parking area, replacing much of the grass with drought tolerant plants, and game courts such as shuffle board and horseshoe pits. See 6. Above.

Bill Souder
1750 Snowberry Rd.
Beaumont CA, 92223
951 797-3956
bzybill@gmail.com

Email: West of Devers Upgrade Project EIR/EIS

From: fergusonslf@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 10:21 PM
To: West Of Devers Project
Subject: Towers D-V117 and DEC-10

Comment: My concerns are about the placement of towers D-V117 and DEC-10 replacing old towers M87-74, M27-74 and PP123238. The old towers are obtrusive and some say a health hazard. The new towers will be even more obtrusive. I would suggest that the towers be moved away from the homes and more to the middle of the corridor, if not to the north side of the corridor. I don't understand why the towers would be placed even closer to the homes. Please consider moving the towers to the north side of the corridor to help the homeowners. It looks like the towers would line up better on the north side.

Thank You,
Steve Ferguson

Vincent and Martha van Rooijen
34967 Hagen Heights
Beaumont, CA 92223

June 11, 2014

Billie Blanchard, CPUC Project Manager/
Brian Paul, BLM Project Manager
C/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935
San Francisco, CA 94104-3002

Subject: SCE West of Devers Upgrade Project: NOP EIR/EIS for Application No. A.13-10-020

We are Vincent and Martha van Rooijen, and we own and live in our home at 34967 Hagen Heights, Beaumont, CA, which is next to Segment 4 of SCE's proposed West of Devers Upgrade Project. Our neighborhood is called Fairway Canyon and we purchased our home new in 2007. We already have SCE transmission and towers too close to our homes—they don't need to be moved closer! SCE needs to be denied or they need to move the project an alternative route or at the very least underground this nightmare they are dropping on our homes.

WE ARE PERMANENTLY AND SIGNIFICANTLY NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY THIS PROJECT

We are negatively affected by Segment 4 of the West of Devers Upgrade Project because SCE wants to remove 175 existing structures across from our home on a hillside that are 90' tall single-circuit towers, and 139' tall double-circuit towers, and replace them with 136 double-circuit towers that are 142' tall—and they want to install them side-by-side where the center of the tower is only 50' from the southern edge of their right-of-way on a hill which is steep and extremely close to our property.

We are against this project. We do not believe that SCE is considering the Permanent, Unavoidable Significant Impacts to our home and neighborhood. They cannot mitigate these, and we should have the right to prevent them. We have just as much to use and enjoy our property as SCE does for theirs. We accept that they have existing towers placed at the top of the hillside away from our homes. We should not have to have the overbearing, behemoth towers right in our face. Space is the only buffer we have to their towers—now they are taking the buffer away and putting their towers literally right on top of us.

The SCE application shows how little they care about our neighborhood, as they are trying to move their towers and lines down the hillside, as close to our homes as they can. We will suffer from unmitigated 24-hour Noise, Severe Visual Impacts, Slope De-stabilization, and Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF's) as well as Air Quality, Loss of Buffer from our homes, Fire Threats, Biological Wildlife and Vegetation Loss of Habitat, Dust, access roads,

SCE IS PIECE-MEALING AND AVOIDING DEALING WITH CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

SCE is piece-mealing its projects in our area and trying to escape appropriate cumulative impact and growth inducing review under CEQA! Consider CPUC Decision D.08-12-031, which approved SCE's El Casco Project (Application No. A.07-02-022). We know that the SCE transmission line route behind our house (the Northerly Route Option 3) was eliminated as an Alternative to SCE's preferred El Casco route south of San Timoteo Road—which was approved and built, and is not near homes in our area. However, now SCE come back with what essentially is the Northerly Route in the West of Devers Upgrade Project.

The CPUC Decision analyzed the “Northerly Route Option 3” —which is right across from our home—as an Alternative, which was found **infeasible** by the CPUC: “...*The CPUC finds that specific economic, legal, social, technological, and other considerations, including those considerations set forth in the EIR, make the Route Alternative Option 3 **infeasible**. Specifically, this alternative is environmentally less desirable than the adopted Project because the environmental impacts it would cause would be more severe, as it would impact a greater number of residential structures.*” (CPUC El Casco Decision D.08-12-031, Attachment A, CPUC CEQA Facts, Pg A-74)”

It is egregious for SCE to come back now in Application A.13-10-020 and submit for what is actually the Northerly Route Option 3—by calling it a “new” project, “West of Devers Upgrade Project. This route was considered only as an alternative to the El Casco route that ended up on SCE’s original route south of San Timoteo Road. This ‘new’ application for the West of Devers Upgrade Project is just a mirror of the **former rejected, infeasible Northerly Route Options**.

Further, the EIR says it was CPUC’s idea for SCE to study the Northerly Option as an Alternative to their proposed El Casco 115 Transmission Line Upgrade Route south of San Timoteo. However, SCE says it’s always been something they wanted, and that it came available after they negotiated with the Morongo Indians—this was mentioned in the El Casco EIR as one of the reasons for not pursuing the Northerly Route and instead building the El Casco southerly route instead. If SCE needs additional capacity, why didn’t they bring this up previously with El Casco? We think it is because they have become masters at gaming and piece-mealing the system. They come in with pieces at a time, when they full well know, they will be back in the same area once they get one set of improvements done.

WE EXPECT MORE SCE PIECE-MEAL APPLICATIONS ON THE NORTH HILLSIDE

For example, SCE’s current application is for changing out transmission lines next to our home and replacing all the existing towers with larger, bigger towers, side-by-side, and moving the new towers down the hill south-right next to our homes. Their plan shows 200’ available on the north side when they install this new set of double-circuited towers down the south hill on top of us. After this is done, it looks obvious they will apply again for the 200’ on the northern hillside for more giant double-circuit towers side-by-side, further intensifying the towers so where there is one, there will be four.

As they are now, the existing towers are not right next to each other—their spacing alternates between the single and double-circuit towers, with the single towers spaced 95’ away from the southern edge of their right-of-way, and the double-circuit s towers are 220’ away.

We are highly concerned because we will be damaged from this project. SCE wants to intensify the use of double-circuit towers, significantly increase the size of their towers, which have a larger footprint and will bear down on our home and destabilize the hillside, double the towers up side-by-side and move them significantly closer to our home and other homes on our street.

TABLE ES-2: SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE-CLASS I-IMPACTS FROM EL CASCO EIR-NORTHERLY ROUTE

In addition, the El Casco EIR studied three Northerly Route options; two were tossed out as not worth further study, and Northerly Route Option 3 was thoroughly studied in the El Casco EIR and identified as **infeasible!** *The Northerly Route was found to have more receptors (THAT WOULD BE OUR HOMES) which would be unavoidably and permanently significantly negatively impacted by Noise and Visual impacts—greater than SCE’s El Casco route.* We also note that the Northerly Route was shown to have unavoidable and permanently significant negative Air Quality, Biological Resources, and Hazards—especially Fire impacts—here is the list El Casco EIR Page ES-42 that lists all the terrible impacts from the Northerly Route when it was analyzed in the El Casco EIR just a few years ago. All of these must be addressed in SCE’s new West of Devers Application:

Table ES-2. El Casco EIR Significant Unavoidable (Class I) Impacts of the Northerly Route Option 3

- AQ-1 (Construction emissions exceed regional significance criteria)
- AQ-2 (Construction emissions exceed localized significance criteria)
- AQ-3 (Emissions contribute to climate change)
- N-3 (Noise from operation of the overhead subtransmission line)
- CR-4 (Pole Replacement Has the Potential to Indirectly Impact Historical Resources)
- V-13 (Increased structure contrast, industrial character, view blockage, and skylining)
- Cumulatively exceed regional emission thresholds
- Cumulatively exceed localized emission thresholds
- Cumulatively increase greenhouse gas emissions impacting climate change
- Cumulatively cause temporary or permanent loss of native vegetation communities
- Cumulatively cause loss of foraging or breeding habitat for wildlife
- Cumulatively introduce non-native and invasive plant species
- Cumulatively result in a loss of nesting birds
- Cumulatively result in indirect or direct loss of listed plants
- Cumulatively result in indirect or direct loss of Quino Checkerspot habitat
- Cumulatively result in habitat loss or disturbance to listed birds including migratory birds and raptors
- Cumulatively result in the electrocution of listed and special-status bird species;
- Cumulatively result in subtransmission line collisions by listed and special-status bird species
- Cumulatively result in the loss of special-status plant species
- Cumulatively result in indirect or direct loss of individuals or direct loss of habitat for sensitive wildlife
- Cumulatively result in the loss of special-status reptile species
- Cumulatively result in the loss of burrowing owls
- Cumulatively result in the loss of foraging habitat or disruption of nesting for special-status raptor species
- Cumulatively result in the loss of the American badger; Cumulatively result in loss of special-status rodent species
- Cumulatively result in the loss of jurisdictional waters and wetlands; and Cumulatively result in the loss or restriction of habitat connectivity in Constrained Linkage 22
- Cumulatively expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires
- Construction activities would cumulatively degrade surface water and groundwater quality
- Operational activities would cumulatively degrade surface water and groundwater quality
- Cumulatively result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels
- Cumulative impacts to a perceived increase in industrialization of the landscape

DETAILED STUDIES AND PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE NEEDED

- I am requesting that CPUC/BLM has a meeting with our neighborhood, as well as our Homeowner's Association, Fairway Canyon HOA, as part of the EIR process.
- In addition, this project should be a topic at the monthly "Beaumont Cares" meeting sponsored by the City of Beaumont at City Hall.
 - Any meeting with our neighborhood should be set up with the Fairway Canyon HOA Board President, Mr. Len Leach, and should be held at the Fairway Canyon Clubhouse located at 36189 Champions Drive, Beaumont, CA 92223; Phone No: (951) 922-6444.
- All meetings should be noticed using traditional and online media, including these:
 1. The Press Enterprise Newspaper
 2. The San Bernardino Sun
 3. The Banning-Beaumont Record Gazette
 4. The Calimesa News Mirror
 5. The Desert Sun
 6. Beaumont-Banning Patch (<http://banning-beaumont.patch.com>)
 7. Southern California Daily Buzz on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/socaldailybuzz/>
 8. Beaumont-Cherry Valley Neighborhood Watch on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1452471834973667/>)
 9. Yucaipa-Calimesa Neighborhood Watch on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/293419937468885/>)
- All of the following areas need detailed studies are needed.
 1. **Aesthetics/Visual**—permanent negative change to view from homes next to project.
 2. **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas**—Air Quality impacts are extremely negative
 3. **Biological Resources-Vegetation**—there is habitat and vegetation affected
 4. **Biological Resources-Wildlife**—birds, owls, coyotes, mountain lions, and wildlife are affected
 5. **Geology and Soils**—hillsides could be destabilized—there has been flooding in area
 6. **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**—EMT's are too close to our homes; increase Fire hazard
 7. **Hydrology and Water Quality**—scraping out hillside and putting in concrete
 8. **Land Use**—Industrializing our neighborhood and towers are not compatible next to homes
 9. **Noise**—24 hour noise is unacceptable and previous studies showed this could not be mitigated
 10. **Public Health and Safety**—Fire Hazard, EMT's, poor Air Quality
 11. **Public Services and Utilities**—which agency shoulders ongoing emergency costs, Beaumont?
 12. **Recreational Resources**—project prevents trail development and eliminates wildlife corridor
 13. **Transportation and Traffic**—new access roads will be built; dirt and noise too close to homes
 14. **Cumulative Impacts**, including potential for future transmission lines in the WOD Corridor
 15. **Growth Inducing Effects**—is this for current demand, or does this project beget more growth?
 16. **Adequacy of CEQA and NEPA**, ensuring effective coordination between CPUC, BLM and BIA
 17. **Consideration of a reasonable range of alternatives**- Review our Alternatives thoroughly!
 18. **Enforceable and effective mitigation measures**—Which Agency reviews/holds SCE accountable?

WE HAVE SUGGESTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

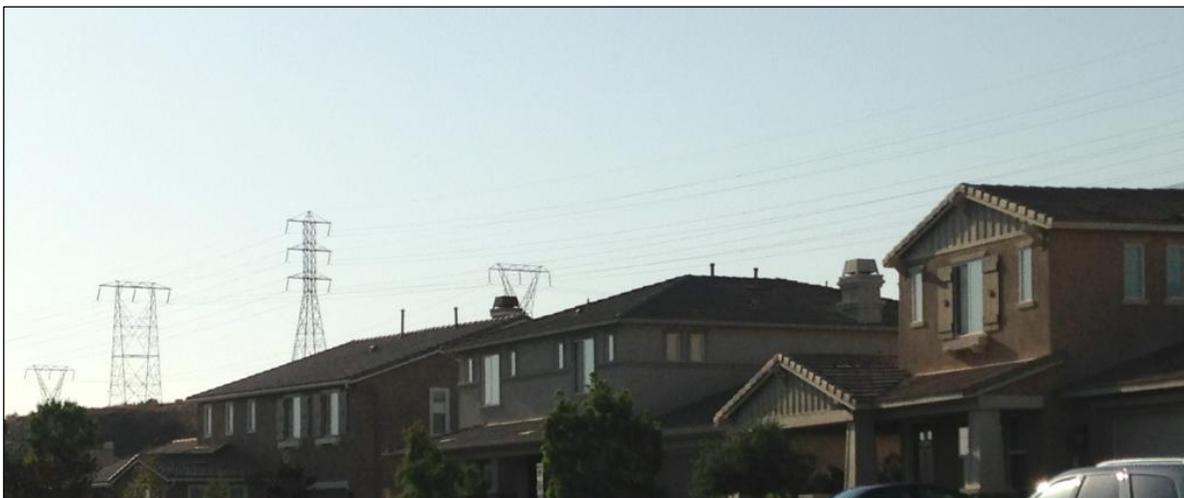
We offer the following significant suggestions and alternatives for this SCE Application:

1. If CPUC wants this project, SCE should move it to the El Casco route that was just built. The El Casco route does not run through any neighborhoods in our area of Beaumont. They need to show a route that merges to their Morongo line that does not affect homes.
2. If they cannot find a route that does not go right next to homes, they need to underground their facilities in these locations. In the El Casco Decision, CPUC was against undergrounding. CPUC needs to be more flexible and consider the long-term positive impact of undergrounding, rather than being worried about setting precedence. These are new projects, neither 'grand-fathered' in, nor routine maintenance. Residents should be given consideration. Undergrounding should be used strategically to help resolve permanent, unavoidable significant negative impacts.
3. If SCE is allowed to proceed without undergrounding, the CPUC should move the towers to SCE's 200' on the north side of the hill where there are no homes and only vacant land. There was a development that went bankrupt during the recession and all that is left is weeds and dust as the former developer never finished grading or building even one house. This side of SCE's property has no development at all—it is vacant. Let the next developer determine the buffers they need since they have a chance to plan for this SCE project, and we did not.
4. The vacant property has many planning steps to go through and putting the SCE towers next to vacant land is preferred over putting them right on top of our homes, which had no ability to plan for this route. It would be preferred to have the area undergrounded, but given hurting every resident who has already been living here with unavoidable, permanent significant impacts is not acceptable, when there is vacant land on the other side of the hill—the north side that is not affected now, and the developer of that land would be able build their project considering the West of Devers Upgrade Project 142' towers rather than having no options at all like our neighborhood.
5. CPUC should study, and take action to find out why SCE did not clearly provide information that they would return with the Northerly Route on the West of Devers line when they applied for El Casco—this should have been part of the El Casco EIR. We deserve accountability on this! SCE had ample time and opportunity as part of the project description and EIR to inform us and CPUC they would be back for the Northerly Route on Devers even if they got El Casco. This is bait and switch.
6. If shown that SCE knew they wanted both lines, the CPUC should deny this project and require them to submit their projects in full—not piecemeal.
7. CPUC should implement stricter rules on information they require from the CPUC so neighborhoods like ours are not subject to piece-meal abuse of the application system.

Please review our comments and request, and consider that we have spent time and energy to respond to the NOP for this EIR/EIS.

Please see the attached photos of how close SCE's *existing* West of Devers Towers and Transmissions Lines are to our homes on Hagen Heights in Beaumont. As you can see by the photos, the existing lines are already close to our homes and affect our views---we understood this when we moved in. There has been no more mention of the Northerly Route along Devers since the CPUC approved the El Casco Project in 2008. Look at the photos and see that the existing smaller towers are 95' away from our homes and the larger towers are 200' away from our houses, and SCE is proposing to lower them into our backyards over 170 feet closer for two double-circuit 142' towers. Would you or anyone else reviewing this want to live like this?

Please review our comments, take seriously our suggestions, and look at these pictures of our homes on Hagen Heights in Beaumont. How much closer can the lines and towers come before our houses are unlivable?





Hagen Heights, Fairway Canyon Neighborhood, Beaumont, California: Looking at existing SCE Devers Line

We are concerned for our health and welfare and that we will be the ones living with Permanent, Unavoidable, and Significant Impacts from SCE's West of Devers Upgrade Project. Aren't we already impacted by SCE—does it have to get worse? Find another route or underground!

We want to be included in all future mailings and notifications for this project.

Email is the preferred method: marthad100@yahoo.com. Otherwise, mail us the information.

Sincerely,

Vincent and Martha van Rooijen

34967 Hagen Heights
Beaumont, CA 92223
909-709-7505
marthad100@yahoo.com

cc:

Len Leach, Board President
Fairway Canyon HOA

City of Beaumont City Council
Press Enterprise Newspaper
San Bernardino Sun Newspaper
Banning-Beaumont Patch

Email: West of Devers Upgrade Project EIR/EIS

From: HS <hgschnur@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2014 10:14 AM
To: West Of Devers Project
Subject: Letter against SCE CPUC Application No. A.13-10-020--West of Devers Upgrade Project

June 12, 2014

TO CPUC/BLM:

Here is my letter against SCE CPUC Application No. A.13-10-020--West of Devers Upgrade Project. This project is too close to my home--period. SCE towers already close to our homes--we live with this. They shouldn't be able to move them any closer. Either move the route to another place, underground the project by my home and our neighborhood, or move the entire project on the 200 feet of SCE right-of-way on the otherside of the hill--northerly, where they show nothing, and there is just vacant property--it should not bear down on my backyard, or my neighbors.

See pictures in letter and attached.

Please keep me notified of any information on this project.

Horst Schnur
34970 Hagen Heights
Beaumont, CA 92223