

## Comment Set C.143: Ron Howell

----- Forwarded by Marian Kadota/R5/USDAFS on 10/02/2006 08:12 AM -----

Sherry Howell <howellassoc@earthlink.net>

10/02/2006 12:37AM

To  
Marian Kadota <mkadota@fs.fed.us>

cc

Subject  
Protest - Antelope-Pardee Transmission Project Alternative 2

Marian -  
Please see attached letters & maps. Hard copies have also been mailed.  
Thank you,  
Sherry & Ron Howell

(See attached file: Forest + Alternate 2 Protest-Kadota.doc)  
(See Attached file: Alternative 2 Protest-Marian Kadota-US Forest Service.doc)  
(See attached file: Map Alt 1+ Proposed Segment1.jpg) (See attached file: Map Alternative 2 Mid-slope.jpg)

September 29, 2006

Ms. Marian Kadota, US Forests Service  
Adaptive Management Services Enterprise Team  
6755 Hollister Avenue, Suite 150  
Goleta, CA 93117

Dear Ms. Kadota:

This letter is in protest of proposed Southern California power lines through Angeles National Forest. And through our homes and our views, be they public or private lands. Segment one, as proposed with all its alternatives should be denied for two primary reasons:

- 1) Segment One, Original Proposal destroys National Forest.
- 2) Segment One, Alternative 2 destroys people's lives and homes.

Here's how:

### 1) SEGMENT ONE = DESTRUCTION OF NATIONAL FOREST

When President Teddy Roosevelt personally dedicated this land to be protected as National Forest, he didn't mean for Southern California Edison to be an exception. Or wind farms. Or General Electric. Or anyone.

I am not a tree-hugger. These lands are set aside to be preserved for public appreciation and enjoyment. Destroying their natural beauty with power lines destroys the enjoyment of the Forest. It will no longer serve the purpose of a pleasurable, vital and much needed getaway for rich and poor, alike. These are not only lands we must preserve, they are *values* we must preserve. Wilderness is good. Public recreation in the forests is good. Power lines are not good. They spoil the “getting away from it all” experience for everyone. We all need that experience, even if it is for just a weekend, or a day, or for a few hours. One should be able to ride a bike in some areas (even a motorized one), hike, fish and whatever in other areas. There can be room for us all to enjoy it all. But power lines spoil it for all.

C.143-1

## 2) ALTERNATIVE 2 = DESTRUCTION OF PEOPLE’S LIVES AND HOMES

While I object to the original Edison Proposed Route through the National Forest, making matters even worse is Alternate Route 2. It runs through private property, unnecessarily. Such a route will significantly devalue our private properties at 36917 Bouquet Canyon Road, 37041 Bouquet Canyon Road and 37039 Bouquet Canyon Road. These properties are currently valued at a \$12.5 million, combined, and are in various stages of investment and planning for their best and highest use; which includes, but is not limited to, vineyards for wine grapes, a winery, housing development for vineyard estates, equestrian estates, spa/resort, corporate retreat, and an ongoing motion picture ranch. These contiguous properties are of exceptionally high value because of the combined 248 acres they represent so close to metropolitan Los Angeles, Santa Clarita and the Antelope Valley. The properties would be devalued, without limitation to, or prejudice, for the following reasons:

C.143-2

A) Line-of-sight destroying views of the mountains, valleys and Bouquet Canyon Reservoir; which has not only an aesthetic impact, but one of eliminating use of the property for a movie ranch, estate homes with views, health & wellness retreat, and other events dependent on the views, such as weddings, prayer services, etc.

C.143-3

B) Loss of all other uses under current A2 Zoning, including allowable Conditional Use Permits.

C.143-4

C) Noise from the wires.

C.143-5

D) Real and perceived health problems to current and future residents and visitors.

C.143-6

E) Fire hazard to residents.

C.143-7

F) Hazard to fire fighting aircraft that fly very low on approach from the east to Bouquet Canyon Reservoir in order to “scoop” water to fight fires for miles around. Alternative 2 would place wires in the air directly in front of the fire-fighting aircraft’s approach to the Reservoir. Aircraft access to Bouquet Reservoir

C.143-8

is an absolute necessity for fighting fires in the surrounding area including the National Forest and residential communities. The National Forest, LA County Fire Department, California Edison and CPUC would be negligent to allow Alternative 2, or any such route which would allow transmission lines close to Bouquet Reservoir.

BEHAVIOR BY RESIDENTS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, ALIKE, IN THIS MATTER IS TROUBLING.

Not only is it wrong to destroy National Forest. It is wrong to pit community against community, neighbor against neighbor. Unfortunately, the “Not In My Backyard” syndrome has already reared its ugly head in the communities affected. Are we as individuals to be happy the Project is not in our backyard because it is in someone else’s? Is that honorable? Obviously not. Yet it seems we are being asked with these alternatives to choose another route only from the ones provided.

In a letter from Linda Lambourne, of Congressman McKeon’s office, to Julianne Feuerhelm, July 25, Linda tells Julianne to choose which alternative she deems best. It is my understanding that if the public doesn’t like any of the alternatives from those offered, they can say they should all be rejected and new ones developed based on all the input received through this process. Am I wrong? Is Linda misleading the public by suggesting they must pick an alternative from those being offered? Further, Julianne does “explain” that she prefers the lines be buried.

C.143-9

Provincial attitudes are not the solution. And for elected officials, provincial approaches can be politically hazardous.

The solution is to run the lines underground. This would disturb virtually no one, long term. Corridors that exist should be utilized. New Corridors allowing for the most efficient burial of lines should be established years in advance so that the public knows what is planned for. Burial and routing lines longer distances when necessary only cost pennies more to Edison’s customers. We would gladly pay it to preserve our forests, to preserve our private property and stop destroying people’s lives and homes. We believe the impact on us all of these visually disturbing wind farms and their attendant power lines is an issue that is bigger than anyone’s backyard. It is a Statewide and National issue. Its impact requires reassessment from the Governor to Senators to County officials, City officials, and so on. Otherwise, if we continue down this path, we will wake up one day and say, “What have we done to ourselves, and our countryside?”

C.143-10

Let’s stop destroying our National Forests and people’s lives through perverted notions of the public’s needs and environmental concerns. As currently proposed, the entire project should be denied. New routes should be developed that bury the lines, not people, their homes and our national sanctuaries.

IN SUMMARY:

Fact is, the nomenclature is confusing to everyone who's analyzing the proposal including government agencies and officials. For example, there are two Alternative 1's. We understand there is Southern California Edison's Antelope-Pardee Alternative 1 and Aspen Environmental Group's Antelope-Pardee Alternative 1, Partial Underground. They are entirely separate routes. Does everyone understand this?

If one had only to choose from the 5 proposals, then Southern California Edison's Antelope-Pardee Alternative 1 appears the least detrimental for all concerned. It follows an existing corridor only adding 60 feet to its width.

The original Southern California Edison Proposed Project seems next best. But the Transmission Towers and lines are much taller than the existing ones, which could be a hazard for fire fighting aircraft that scoop water out of Bouquet Reservoir and then need ample clearance for their ascent.

C.143-11

Alternate Route 2 is unacceptable because it ruins millions of dollars of private land, people's existing homes including mine, and up to 100 proposed new homes, a movie location and ranch.

C.143-12

It also creates an unnecessary hazard for fire fighting access by Super Scooper aircraft to the east side of Bouquet Reservoir. Such low-flight access has been historically required to fight fires in the National Forest and surrounding residential communities.

When it comes to our Forests:

“TREES, NOT TOWERS.”

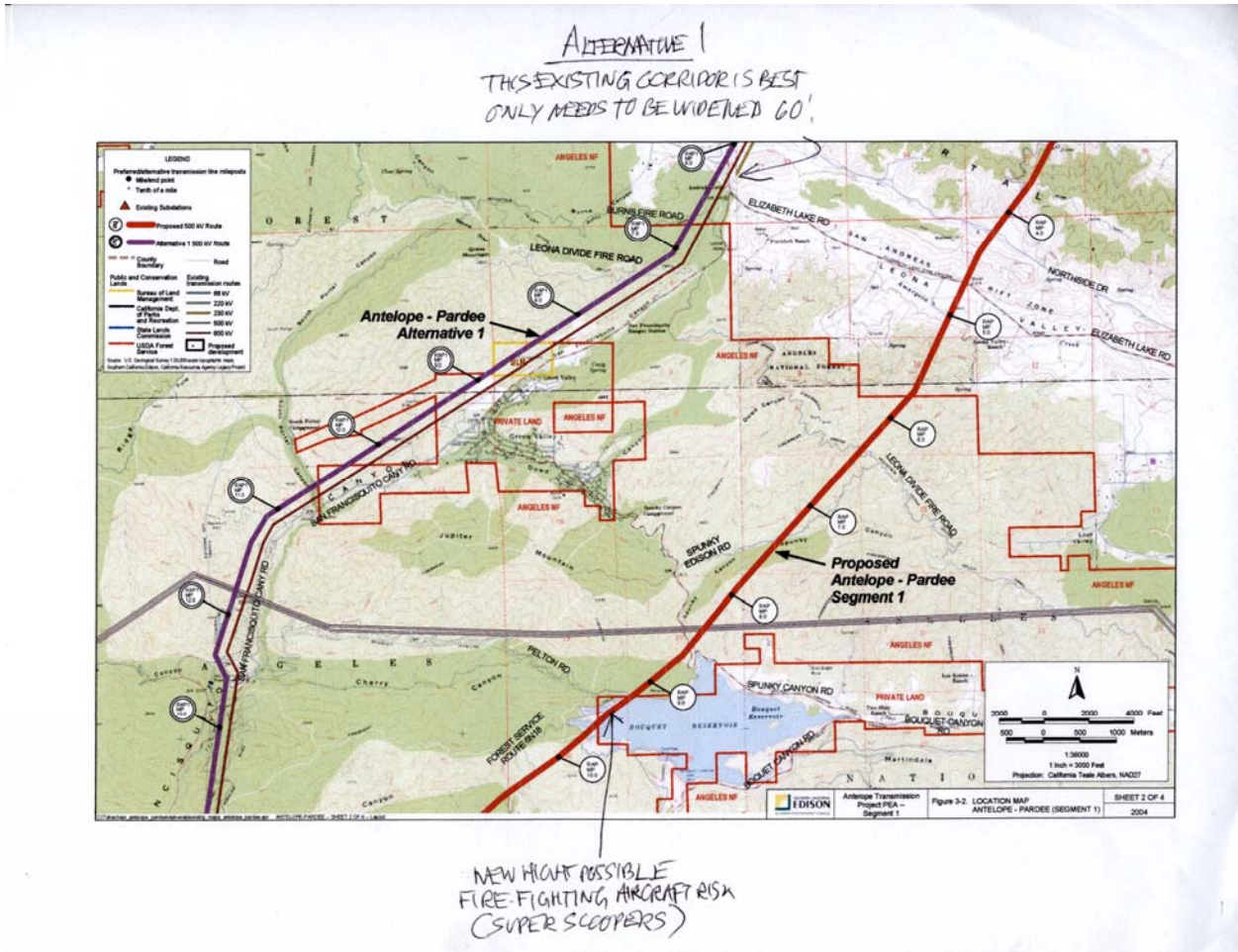
When it comes to our lives and our homes:

“BURY THE LINES, NOT PEOPLE.

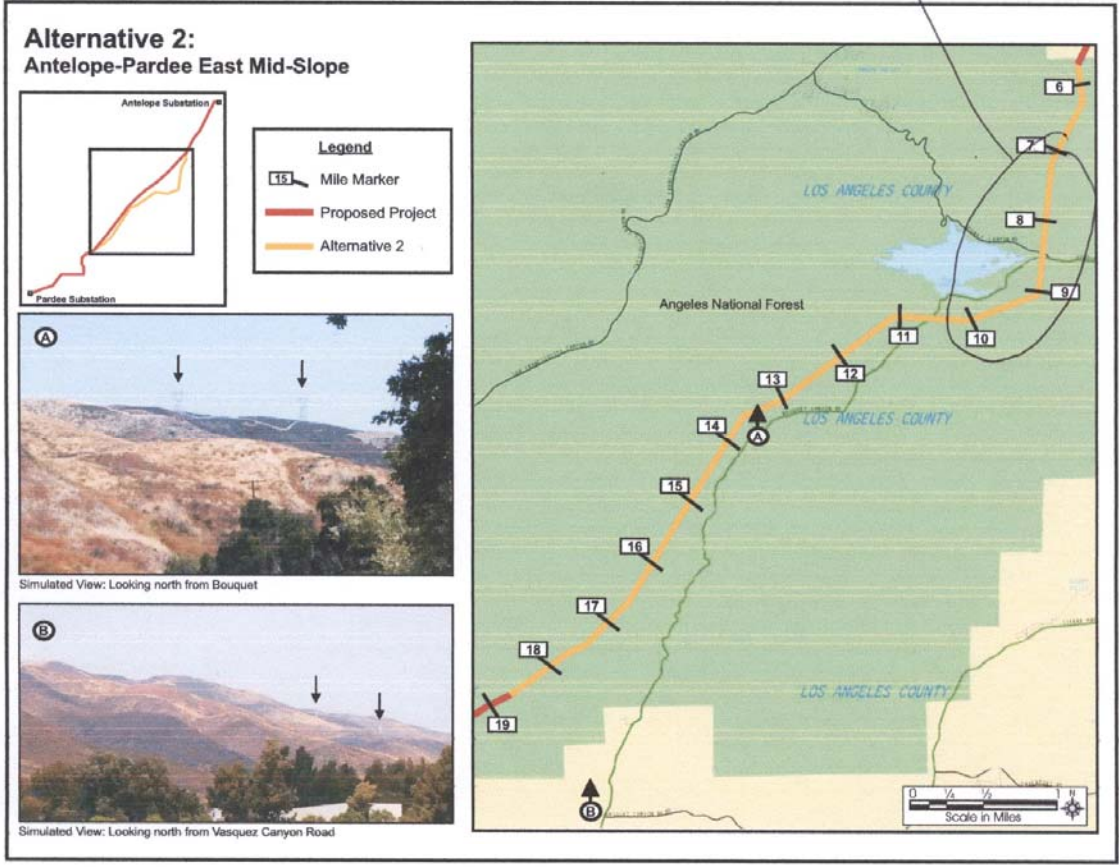
MOVE THE LINES, NOT PEOPLE.”

Sincerely,

Ron Howell  
36917 Bouquet Canyon Road  
Santa Clarita, CA 91390  
661-270-1519  
cc: Alis Clausen, Southern California Edison



NO ON ALTERNATE 2  
PRIVATE PROPERTY/HOMES  
FIRE-FIGHTING AIRCRAFT HAZARD



## Response to Comment Set C.143: Ron Howell

- C.143-1 Thank you for your comments. As addressed in Final EIR/EIS Section C.9.5 (Criterion LU1), one of the objectives of the Forest Service purpose and need is to “minimize the effects of urbanization, or negative effects to open space and natural settings, on the Angeles National Forest”.
- C.143-2 Your comments will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC. Please also see General Response GR-1 regarding potential effects on property values.
- C.143-3 As discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.15.8.2, less than significant visual impacts would occur as a result of Alternative 2 regarding conflicts with existing visual quality polices and objectives contained in both ANF Forest Service policies and applicable local agency policies.
- C.143-4 As discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.9.7.2, significant and unavoidable impacts would occur as a result of Alternative 2 regarding conflicts with existing land use designations. 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.143-5 As discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.10.7.2, significant and unavoidable impacts would occur as a result of Alternative 2 regarding an increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Veluzat Motion Picture Ranch. 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.143-6 Please see General Response GR-3 regarding potential EMF impacts.
- C.143-7 As discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.7.6.2, fire safety impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated as a result of Alternative 2.
- C.143-8 As discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.7.7.2, Criterion Fire3, Alternative 2 would result in the removal of the existing 66-kV line along Del Sur Ridge, which is a potential collision hazard for aerial firefighting resources. The proposed transmission line would be located mid-slope along Del Sur Ridge and would not create an aerial hazard for fire fighting aircraft accessing Bouquet Canyon Reservoir water.
- C.143-9 Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15092, “after considering the final EIR and in conjunction with making finding under Section 15091, the Lead Agency may decide to approve or carry out a project for which an EIR was prepared.” 40 C.F.R. Section 1505.1(e) states that the agency decisionmaking process requires “that the alternatives considered by the decisionmaker are encompassed by the range of alternatives discussed in the relevant environmental documents and that the decisionmaker consider the alternatives described in the environmental impact statement.” As such, the selection of the final alignment for the Project must be selected base on the proposed Project and all the alternatives considered in the Final EIR/EIS.
- C.143-10 Please see General Response GR-6 regarding underground technologies for 500-kV transmission line.
- C.143-11 Please refer to the response to Comment C.143-8, above.
- C.143-12 Please see General Response GR-4 regarding the identification, screening, and analysis of proposed Project Alternatives. Your comments will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.