

Comment Set DD.2: Santa Clarita Public Meeting (August 29th, 6:30PM)

0002

2 DRAFT EIR/EIS PUBLIC MEETING
3 SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA

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7 PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW)
8 DRAFT EIR/EIS FOR)
9 ANTELOPE-PARDEE TRANSMISSION)
10 PROJECT)
11 _____)
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16 PUBLIC HEARING,
17 taken at City of Santa Clarita Activities Center,
18 Santa Clarita Room, 20880 Centre Point Parkway,
19 Santa Clarita, California, at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday,
20 August 29, 2006, before Catherine Fox, CSR No. 12494, a
21 Certified Shorthand Reporter within and for the State of
22 California

23 -oOo-
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1 SANTA CLARITA, CALIFORNIA; TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2006
2 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.
3 -oOo-
4

5 MR. BRITT: Okay. I think we've been broken up
6 here even a little bit longer even than John suggested.
7 So if we can try to find our way back to our seats,
8 we're going to go ahead and kick off our public comment
9 period of the evening.

10 And then we'll be able to conclude the meeting
11 and let you guys go home. So, with that, let me just
12 lay down some of the rules of how we're going to do this
13 again just to make it as efficient as possible and as
14 fair and equitable as possible.

15 And, again, if you would like to speak during
16 the public comment period, we would ask that you fill
17 out this simple form. It just lets us know who you are
18 and just drop it off up here.

19 What I'm going to do is I'm going to call you
20 one at a time. And you can just come up here. And I'll
21 give you the microphone. And if you can please state
22 your name for the court reporter so that she can put
23 that into the record, that would be good. And then just
24 give us your comment.

25 You do have three minutes to make a comment.

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1 We want to make sure that all these meetings that we

2 have are equitable. So we want to give everyone a fair
3 share.

4 If you do have any comments that are gonna last
5 longer than three minutes, again, please remember that
6 there are forms, a comment card or a comment form, that
7 you can fill out. You can do it tonight. You can mail
8 it in. You can fax it. You can submit a comment via
9 e-mail on the e-mail address that's on this information.

10 So, please, we do want your comments. And if
11 you would like to speak tonight, that's fine. If you're
12 afraid or bashful and you would like to think about it,
13 that's fine as well.

14 So, with that, I'm going to also put this
15 information up while the speakers are making their
16 comments just to --

17 (Interruption of the court reporter)

18 So, with that, I'm going to pass you off two at
19 a time. That way, the next person can get ready to make
20 their comment, and we'll speed things along here.

21 So the first two are Rolf Linden and
22 Laurie Staschik.

23 Rolf, please come up.

24 MR. LINDEN: My name is Rolf Linden. I live on
25 107th Street in Leona Valley. And I was here -- not

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1 here -- I was in Antelope Valley yesterday. And we
2 talked about this. And I have a similar comment to what
3 I have yesterday.

4 And so, first of all, I want to mention
5 something that doesn't come out in these discussions
6 very much is the effect on home and property. Okay?

7 From my home -- I bought the home in
8 Leona Valley because I enjoy the serenity and the views
9 from my home on 107th Street. Like I said earlier in
10 the comment, I live westward. I can look from living
11 room and family room and see the sunset and see the
12 birds and so forth. And now I'm gonna see a power line.

13 The way the power line is routed on
14 Alternative 5, it's gonna be routed on the hills in
15 front of me and on the hills to the left of me. And
16 that, to me, is absolutely terrible, terrible solution.

17 And I also will say the proximity of the power
18 lines to all of us people in Leona Valley will affect
19 our health.

20 There is not enough studies made here in the
21 United States on the potential health effects of high
22 power and high tension lines, the effect of EMF on the
23 human body, particularly the low frequency EMF from the
24 60 (inaudible) lines that would be right here,
25 particularly the high voltage.

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1 In Europe and other places, they've done a lot
2 more studies and a lot more (inaudible) in these things.
3 And I suggest that the PUC take -- take a look at that,
4 take a look at studies they've done outside of the
5 United States.

6 And routing -- routing of the power lines, we

DD.2-1

DD.2-2

DD.2-3

7 talked about routing on the ridges. And this will be
8 routing on a ridge around my property and around the
9 whole road in Leona Valley called Lost Valley Road.

10 What happens is that it will affect the fire
11 fighting ability. You mentioned that earlier, that that
12 affects the fire fighting ability in the forest. But it
13 does affect it around our property.

14 That means that the air tanker -- because the
15 terrain is very steep. And the houses on all sides of
16 that property on -- where the power lines go. So when
17 the air tankers can't fly in there because these
18 200-foot towers will prevent them from dropping their
19 load. So this gonna affect us tremendously.

20 Two years ago, we had a big fire in
21 Leona Valley. It came within a mile of my home. And
22 what happened is that the whole Leona Valley looked --
23 looked like an airfield. There was airplanes everywhere
24 flying around and dropping their load.

25 And, now, with this thing happening, they
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1 couldn't do that. There was no way they could do that.

2 Now, I ask you guys, the PUC and others, to
3 look at other alternatives. You know, especially today,
4 running power lines higher to the air like this is old
5 technology. There are other -- other technologies
6 available. And I suggest you look at using high-voltage
7 DC underground power lines. It's been used elsewhere,
8 particularly Europe.

9 The high power DC lines is -- is going under
10 the ground. Their right-of-way is only like 20 feet
11 wide. They're buried about 20 feet down in the ground.
12 And you don't see anything. They're not (inaudible)
13 anything. There's no big electromagnetic fields around
14 those lines, not like they are on these lines here.

15 So why don't they look at that here? There is
16 a conference paper from the conference in the
17 United States about these things. And here, like
18 invisible. So look at those. Don't use old technology.
19 We're living in California, the land of -- of new
20 development and new technology. So why don't you use
21 new technology on the power lines?

22 So, in conclusion, I am opposed to
23 Alternative 5 in particular and also opposed to any
24 above-ground power lines.

25 So thank you very much.

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1 MR. BOCCIO: A lot of people seem to be
2 concerned about the EMF's. For people who want to
3 gather information on the studies that have been done,
4 you can go to the State of California Department of
5 Health web site. There's also a link from the PUC web
6 site to the Department of Health web site.

7 So you can read the studies that they have done
8 and they have compiled. Also in Section C-6 in our
9 document, there is a discussion about EMF's.

10 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: Can you Xerox that off
11 for me?

DD.2-4

DD.2-5

12 MR. BOCCIO: You can get a CD. Do you have
13 one?
14 MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC: Yeah.
15 MR. BOCCIO: Okay. You can get a copy of the
16 CD. So they'll get the information.
17 MR. BRITT: Okay. Laurie Staschik. And then
18 after Laurie is going to be Maynard Davis.
19 MS. STASCHIK: Okay. Hi, my name is
20 Laurie Desantis-Staschik.
21 Do you need me to spell it?
22 Laurie is L-a-u-r-i-e. Last name is
23 D-e-s-a-n-t-i-s, hyphen, Staschik, S-t-a-s-c-h-i-k.
24 I wanted to state for the record that I'm
25 totally opposed to this proposition on a number of -- of
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1 points: The first one just being for EMF's. The EMF
2 issue alone is enough for me to just say I am totally
3 against this. I have two small children. And their
4 health is at risk as well as mine and everybody's
5 health, every resident.

DD.2-6

6 I also have looked through the report a little
7 bit. And they definitely say that soil erosion is a
8 problem. Okay? They're -- flooding is imminent.
9 They -- they are disrupting the flow, the drainage flows
10 in Santa Clarita, as well in the area where we are in
11 Leona Valley where I'm a resident.

DD.2-7

12 And, also, they talk about poisoning or
13 accident -- accidental release of potentially harmful
14 materials in our ground water.

15 "Disturbance of existing ground water resources
16 through project related excavation activities." Okay?

17 All of us in Leona Valley -- or most of us are
18 on well water. Okay? That means you're going to be
19 poisoned. So even if you're not one of those people
20 where your house is being taken, you're gonna be
21 poisoned. Or perhaps your well line -- you will not --
22 it will run dry. So that's a huge issue.

DD.2-8

23 And on top of that, I don't know about any of
24 you, but I know a lot of us in Leona Valley plant our
25 own organic fruits and vegetables. And that means those
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1 are all gonna be poisoned too. So whatever you eat and
2 feed your children will be poisoned. Okay?

3 So don't worry if you think, oh, well, maybe
4 I'll just go out and buy bottled water. Well, that's
5 not gonna do it. Okay?

6 And, you know, on the poles alone, my children
7 are little kids. They'll just run out, you know.
8 They're gonna listen -- they don't always listen to mom.
9 They're gonna run out, and they're gonna touch the pole
10 because the one that -- the Proposition that -- 5,
11 there's a pole right behind my house. I don't know how
12 close it is because you can't tell from these pictures.
13 And a lot of these pictures are very misleading. But
14 it's right behind my house.

DD.2-9

15 And I know that feature because the men who
16 were taking the pictures, I thought they were trying to

DD.2-10

17 help my neighbors. They borrowed the stone from my burn
18 to take pictures of my backyard and my neighbor's. And
19 I didn't know what they were doing.

20 So it also talks about how farmland will not
21 only be encroached but some of it will be permanently --
22 "Towers would permanently preclude the use of
23 farmlands," which means all of those orchards in Leona
24 Valley, the cherry orchards, the Asian pear orchards --
25 okay? -- those will no longer be in existence. And I
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DD.2-11

1 know that some of our neighbors recently planted their
2 cherry -- the cherry trees, and they're just becoming
3 mature now.

4 And on top of it, I just bought my home about a
5 year and a half ago. I would be financially ruined
6 because, obviously, that's gonna have a financial impact
7 on my home. And if I care to -- if I care to sell my
8 home, I will be owing the bank. And I just barely
9 scraped by to get a house, my first home.

DD.2-12

10 Anyway, for those of you who are not aware,
11 Marcy Watten (phonetic) of Leona Valley is getting
12 together with some attorneys this week. And I invite
13 you to call her. Her number is (818)300-7333. And if I
14 get that wrong, you may call me at (661)270-0011.

15 So I'm very opposed. I'm concerned about
16 health issues, ground water issues, which is, on top of
17 it, more health issues. The visual effects are not so
18 great either. But at least it wouldn't kill me or give
19 me cancer, which the EMF's may.

DD.2-13

20 So I -- I really want everyone to rally
21 together because we can beat this. Okay? This is not
22 something -- you know, they have a plan, also, a -- a
23 nonplan which talks about, oh, they'd have to cancel
24 their activities, their planned activities. Oh, too
25 bad. You know, I might get cancer. But their

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1 activities would be planned -- wouldn't be canceled.

2 So there are other routes to go. And I applaud
3 Rolf for -- for bringing an alternative plan, a
4 healthier plan to view. And I say push that one
5 forward.

6 So thank you for listening. And for all who
7 care to, please, you're welcome to call me and call
8 Marcy as well.

9 All right.

10 MR. BRITT: Okay. Maynard Davis. And then
11 the next person after Maynard will be Linda Luger.

12 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

13 MR. BRITT: State your name.

14 MR. DAVIS: My name is Maynard Davis.

15 I live in a community called Belcaro, which is
16 just off of McBean, south of Copper Hill.

17 And I notice when we were discussing some of
18 the photos and the towers were kind of hard to see, ours
19 are not kind of hard to see at all. They -- they
20 approved this development somehow, which I -- and I
21 trusted our experts. I'm very pleased to be with my

22 neighbors here and everything.
23 However, our street is just a -- probably
24 100 feet from the power lines. It dead-ends into the
25 power lines. We've got about a quarter mile which is

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1 right on top of houses. The whole section there is like
2 near mile 22.3 and 25.6. And if you haven't had the --
3 the surface viewed, please come to our homes and look.
4 It's hard to see from anyplace else. But we're right
5 alongside those wires.

6 Things that concern me, the first one of them
7 would be concern to my children regarding property
8 values, which, this will be a problem. And the others
9 are -- are some of the things which I don't know that we
10 brought up yet.

DD.2-14

11 The -- I know if I was a terrorist looking to
12 take down a wire, I wouldn't go up in the Angeles
13 National Forest to do it. I would just walk directly in
14 from the main street where we live up on this, and
15 that's where I would do it. And the -- so I think
16 there's a danger associated with that, along with
17 earthquakes, 100-year-rain-type situations which would
18 erode the power supports. And if anything ever went
19 wrong there, we would have lines in our yards.

DD.2-15

20 The -- so my suggestion is, first of all,
21 please look at them. And I know that apparently they're
22 able to mix the type of transmission towers and what
23 have you with underground. And, of course, the
24 underground should be a way it would go. With every --
25 especially in areas where it's so close.

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1 They say, well, that's difficult and expensive.
2 Well, Edison Company has shown their ability to react to
3 emergencies in a way where, if it's difficult, they do
4 it immediately. And if it's impossible, they take just
5 a little bit longer.

DD.2-16

6 But the -- those are the -- the concerns -- the
7 health concerns, the potential for disaster. The word
8 "electrocution" keeps appearing where they suggest the
9 underground wires and they're less electrocution prone,
10 apparently. We like that part. And the -- but if any
11 of you that have control over these things haven't
12 visited with us, please do. I noted they say, well,
13 it's a gated community, we respected that, and we didn't
14 come in. Anybody gets in in, trust me.

15 So, please, 275 homes, senior citizens. And --
16 and the -- they figured, well, the cancer thing is
17 not -- not to worry about it because you're so old
18 anyways. So -- but the -- the point is we appreciate
19 your help on that.

20 MR. BRITT: Okay. Linda.

21 MS. LUGER: Hi, my name is Linda Luger. And I
22 own a ranch in San Francisquito Canyon, basically at the
23 corner of Copper Hill and McBean.

24 Although the statements that have been made so
25 far, I -- I heartily agree with, however, I do want to

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1 kind of approach it from a -- from another direction,
2 which is that of community enjoyment of our properties
3 and of our environment.

4 Santa Clarita is a beautiful area. One of the
5 things that makes it exceptional -- and, God, I hope we
6 can hold onto it -- is that there are rural aspects of
7 it. There are beautiful hills. There -- there is
8 undeveloped brush and scrub and hills and -- and nature,
9 which is probably a good deal of the reason why many of
10 us moved here.

11 I'm actually involved in a fledgling
12 reinstatement of the San Francisquito Canyon
13 Preservation Association. Because we are trying to stop
14 and have been successful in stopping hundreds and
15 hundreds of homes going into that area to try and
16 preserve the beauty of this area.

17 A lot of us are extremely involved -- this is
18 an equestrian community. A lot of us are extremely
19 involved in -- in horseback riding and -- and community
20 sort of events with the horses and with our children and
21 giving them -- inspiring them to be involved in nature
22 and -- and animals. So I -- I have tremendous concerns
23 about, A, the taller towers.

24 But what -- the other thing that I have a
25 tremendous concern is that we're -- we're talking a lot
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1 about the underground development. And that's terrific
2 until you look at this page that has a picture of what
3 happens with these underground cables.

4 This is a huge structure that they're talking
5 about. They're talking about 2 to 3 acres, which is way
6 bigger than a Wal-Mart and a parking lot. And you're
7 talking about all these wires and all these structures
8 and all these cables really impacting visually the area.
9 This would be the, quote, unquote, rural area that
10 they're putting their -- they're proposing putting this
11 structure on happens to be, A, in my backyard, B, in an
12 area where we have joggers and hikers and -- and animals
13 and wildlife and horses and people on horseback.

14 And this is going to make a tremendous impact
15 on this. I just think it's -- it's terrifying. So I
16 really do have to say that, when you think about -- when
17 you look at this picture, they're also talking about it
18 being 80 feet high, which is equivalent to a ten-story
19 building, give or take a couple of feet.

20 So -- so I think that that is very scary. I --
21 I can't imagine going out on a trail ride and coming
22 across something that looks like that or going on a hike
23 or going on a walk with my children in nature and then
24 being accosted with something like that.

25 I think it could be very dangerous, the hazards
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1 of -- of the power fields and everything else that
2 everyone has said is absolutely a big concern for me as
3 well. But I'd also like you to think about how the
4 access to our rural areas will be impacted for ourselves
5 and our children and our equestrian community and

DD.2-17

6 just -- you know, let's not destroy more than we already
7 have.

8 The power lines are bad enough. Let's not make
9 it worse.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. BRITT: Okay. Harold. And then, following
12 Harold, we have Brian Smith.

13 And that's the only speaker cards I have. So
14 if anyone else wanted to speak, please come up and give
15 me another card.

16 MR. LANDAU: My name is Harold Landau. And I
17 too live in Belcaro, which makes me a senior citizen.
18 So my esteemed neighbor's also not concerned about our
19 kids coming down with cancer and this sort of stuff,
20 but -- because our kids are in their 40's -- maybe our
21 grandkids.

22 But the thing that I'm concerned about is that
23 I bought my home. And when I bought my home, there was
24 already an existing, rather ugly, lattice tower. And my
25 wife and I jokingly called it the Eiffel Tower. But we

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1 didn't expect to see two Eiffel Towers.

2 Now, I noticed in this proposal here, in the
3 so-called -- the proposed project one, that you plan on
4 duplicating the existing lattice tower. I don't want to
5 stand in the way of progress. But let me ask you, is it
6 possible, in lieu of having one of those ugly lattice
7 towers, or possibly the two ugly lattice towers, to
8 replace both of them with a mono tower, which we also
9 have existing?

10 I live within 350 feet of the large existing
11 lattice tower and within about 40 feet of the mono
12 tower. Yet, the mono tower is so less obtrusive than
13 this ugly thing that is sitting out there.

14 Plus, one of the other things I noticed is
15 that, if you're ever out there on a fairly windy day,
16 and it doesn't have to be that windy but where the air
17 is moving somewhat, you have the singing of the wires.

18 And if anyone's heard that, you may find it
19 rather romantic. But the fact of the matter is it's a
20 pain, and I'd rather not hear it. But if there's
21 anything that -- that could be designed to stop that
22 noise, it would be most appreciated.

23 I am not gonna say too much more. My esteemed
24 neighbor Brian over here knows so much more about this
25 than I do. But I kind of felt I had to get my two cents

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1 in.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. BRITT: Okay. Brian Smith.

4 MR. SMITH: My name is Brian Smith. I'm also a
5 resident of Belcaro. It's a beautiful community. We do
6 have -- Edison is a neighbor on our east side for almost
7 the whole length of the community. So far, they've been
8 a pretty good neighbor, and, hopefully, they're gonna
9 continue to be so.

10 In looking through the EIR, I see on

DD.2-18

DD.2-19

11 pages C15-57 and -58, there's some mitigation proposals
12 that were put in there, B1-A through B1-E to erect the
13 tubular, steel pole type towers rather than lattice type
14 towers in that section of the project through mile 22.3
15 to 25.6.

16 And I think that the proposals that we have, at
17 least the summaries of the proposals, don't properly
18 address the visual impact that would be gained by
19 putting those mono towers up in both the original
20 proposal and in the Alternative No. 3. And in both
21 cases, I think they would be much enhanced by the mono
22 towers.

23 I've got a series of ten photographs and
24 comments that I've written up that I wanted to put into
25 the public comments. So I'll do that after this little

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1 talk here. But I do think that -- that the pictures
2 that we do have now don't really show the impact in our
3 community and would suggest, in the areas where it's
4 more heavily developed, that maybe some additional
5 pictures be taken from the communities to show what the
6 impact would be of the proposals and what the mitigation
7 would be of the tubular steel poles.

8 Thank you. Keep up the good work.

9 MR. BRITT: Thank you. So would anyone else
10 like to speak tonight?

11 All right. Well, with that, then, I want to
12 remind you that you have on your forms and on the screen
13 the contact information where you can also submit a
14 comment.

15 The comment -- the closing date for the comment
16 is September 18th. And so, again, we appreciate you
17 taking the time out of your busy schedules and private
18 time to come out tonight, be part of the process.

19 We are going to be completing our series of
20 meetings tomorrow in Aqua Dulce. So, if you would like
21 to attend that, you're more than welcome to attend.

22 And, with that, I believe we're adjourned.

23 Thank you very much.

24 -oOo-

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1 REPORTER CERTIFICATE

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3 I, the undersigned, a Certified Shorthand
4 Reporter within and for the State of California, do
5 hereby certify:

6 That the foregoing proceedings were taken before
7 me at the time and place herein set forth; that a
8 verbatim record of the proceedings was made by me using
9 machine shorthand which was thereafter transcribed under
10 my direction; further, that the foregoing is an accurate
11 transcription thereof.

12 I further certify that I am neither financially
13 interested in the action nor a relative or employee of
14 any attorney of any of the parties.

15 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have this date subscribed

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16 my name.

17

18 Dated: _____

19

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21

22

CATHERINE FOX
CSR NO. 12494

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Response to Comment Set DD.2: Santa Clarita Public Meeting (August 29th, 6:30PM)

- DD.2-1 Please see General Response GR-1 regarding the Project's potential effect on local property values and General Response GR-2 for a discussion of property acquisition.
- DD.2-2 Thank you for submitting your concerns regarding Alternative 5. Your comment will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.
- DD.2-3 Please see General Response GR-3 regarding potential health hazards associated with EMF exposure.
- DD.2-4 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. Your concerns will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.
- DD.2-5 As discussed in Section B.3 of the Draft EIR/EIS, and in General Response GR-4, a range of alternatives were identified through the scoping process. The use of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission was not a consideration for this Project because for overhead and underground transmission lines HVDC systems are very similar to High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) transmission lines.

To meet the Project need would require an HVDC line in the 250 kV DC range, which would use lattice support structures or multiple underground cable ductbanks similar to the other alternatives evaluated for the HVAC line. Furthermore, HVDC transmission lines are substantially different in terms of the additional AC-DC converter station facilities that are required at each end of an HVDC transmission line. In addition, HVDC transmission lines are significantly different from an operating standpoint creating some questions for integrating an HVDC line into the transmission network in a way to reliably meet the Project need.

In view of the additional construction and impacts associated with AC-DC converter station facilities and the similarity of the overhead support structures or underground cable ductbanks to HVAC lines, an HVDC alternative does not warrant further consideration.

- DD.2-6 Please see General Response GR-3 regarding potential health hazards associated with EMF exposure.
- DD.2-7 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.

As discussed in Section C.5 (Geology, Soils, and Paleontology), minor changes in topography associated with the project (Impact G-3) are not expected to be significant. Implementation of the

required Mitigation Measures G-2 (Minimization of Soil Erosion) and B-1a (Provide Restoration/Compensation for Impacts to Native Vegetation Communities) would additionally avoid potential impacts to surface water runoff resulting from topographic changes.

There is a potential for construction of the proposed Project or an alternative to affect local runoff patterns through the introduction of new infrastructure and impervious areas. Any impacts to surface water runoff from the construction of new impervious areas (such as access roads and transmission towers) would be less than significant for the proposed Project and Alternatives 2 through 5. For Alternative 1, Mitigation Measure H-5 (Permeability of Ground Cover) would be implemented to ensure that any potential impacts to runoff would be less than significant.

- DD.2-8 The supply and quality of water resources, including groundwater, would not be significantly affected by the proposed Project or an alternative. As discussed in Section C.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the Draft EIR/EIS, implementation of the proposed Project or an alternative is not expected to significantly interfere with groundwater supply and recharge (Criterion HYD2). In addition, best management practices used during construction and operation would protect the quality of groundwater resources. If the proposed Project or an alternative is approved, the required implementation of mitigation measures during construction and operation would ensure protection of surface water and groundwater quality and supply. The project would not affect the ability of Leona Valley residents to grow organic fruits and vegetables.
- DD.2-9 Structures used to support transmission lines such as would be used for the proposed Project and alternatives would not create a danger to the public, including children, through physical contact. Please see Section C.6 (Public Health and Safety) of the Draft EIR/EIS for a discussion of potential health and safety risks associated with the proposed Project.
- DD.2-10 If the photographs of existing landscape conditions show vacant lands, it is because the view across these existing vacant lands provided excellent observation of landscapes that would be affected by construction and operation of a new 500-kV transmission line. As described in Section C.15.1.1, photographs used in the EIR/EIS were taken from vantage points called key observation positions (KOPs). Each KOP was carefully selected to display the typical or worst-case view from major travel routes or use areas that provide visual access to affected landscapes. From dozens of potential observer positions, and in consultation with CPUC and Forest Service personnel, 14 locations were selected as KOPs for detailed analysis of the proposed Project, and 14 additional KOPs were selected for detailed analysis of alternatives.
- DD.2-11 If construction of the proposed Project or an alternative would require that areas of land currently used for agricultural purposes be permanently precluded from such land use, this change would be isolated to areas immediately within the utility corridor. As discussed in Section C.9.10.2, the majority of land uses that would be restricted as a result of Alternative 5 would be due to the erection of new structures within the alternative ROW. Because SCE has not conducted construction or final alignment and design studies for Alternative 5, the Draft EIR/EIS does not indicate the precise areas that would require restricted land use. However, the construction of Alternative 5 would not result in the removal of entire orchards, including those located throughout Leona Valley.
- DD.2-12 Please see General Response GR-1 regarding the Project's potential effect on local property values and General Response GR-2 for a discussion of property acquisition.

DD.2-13 Thank you for submitting your concerns regarding Alternative 5. Please see Section C.6 (Public Health and Safety) and Section C.8 (Hydrology and Water Quality) of the Draft EIR/EIS for detailed discussions of potential health and safety issues and water quality impacts associated with the proposed Project and alternatives. As discussed above in Response to Comment DD.2-8, the supply and quality of water resources, including groundwater, would not be significantly affected by the proposed Project or an alternative. Best management practices used during construction and operation would protect the quality of groundwater resources. Section C.15 (Visual Resources) of the Draft EIR/EIS provides a detailed discussion of the potential visual impacts associated with the proposed Project and alternatives. Please see General Response GR-3 regarding potential health hazards associated with EMF exposure. Your concerns will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.

DD.2-14 Please see General Response GR-1 regarding the Project's potential effect on local property values and General Response GR-2 for a discussion of property acquisition.

DD.2-15 Thank you for expressing your concerns regarding Alternative 5. Potential impacts associated with earthquakes are discussed in Section C.5 (Geology, Soils, and Paleontology) of the Draft EIR/EIS. Your comment regarding dangers associated with earthquakes is consistent with the findings of the Draft EIR/EIS. As discussed in Section C.5, Criterion GEO5 (Earthquake-Related Ground Rupture) and Criterion GEO6 (Damage Related to Earthquake Induced Phenomena), the implementation of required mitigation measures would ensure that any potential damage to or from project infrastructure as a result of earthquakes or other earth movement would be less than significant.

As described in Section C.8.1.2, a 100-year floodplain, or Flood Hazard Area, is an area of land that has a one percent chance of being inundated by a flood in any given year. Alternative 5 could create a flood hazard through the placement of permanent aboveground structures in a Flood Hazard Area. However, implementation of the construction standards and approvals recommended by Mitigation Measure H-7 (Aboveground Structures shall be Protected Against Flood and Erosion Damage) would ensure that any potential impacts associated with the placement of transmission towers in Flood Hazard Areas, such as those described in Section C.8.1, would be less than significant.

DD.2-16 Section B.3 of the Draft EIR/EIS describes the facilities, construction, and limitations associated with an underground 500 kV transmission line. Installation of an underground transmission line along the Alternative 5 route is technically infeasible considering the mountainous terrain and the technical limitations to installing 500-kV conductor underground on steep slopes. To utilize underground transmission on shorter segments of Alternative 5 would require construction of transition stations at each end of the underground segment resulting in additional facilities on 2 -3 acres with associated ground disturbance and the visual impact depicted in Fig B.4-8 of the EIR/EIS. In addition the cost of undergrounding the transmission line, at a rate approximately 5-10 times greater than overhead construction, could be cost prohibitive (economically not feasible). Please also see General Response GR-6 regarding underground construction.

DD.2-17 Thank you for submitting your concerns regarding Alternative 5. Your concerns will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives and the alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.

- DD.2-18 Please see Section C.15 of the Draft EIR/EIS for a discussion of visual impacts. Specifically, please refer to KOPs 12 and 13 which provide discussions, photographs of existing conditions, and visual simulations of the proposed Project in the vicinity of the Belcaro development. As noted in that section, the proposed Project would replace existing single-circuit lattice steel towers with taller, double-circuit lattice steel towers. Suggested mitigation for visual resources includes the recommendation to substitute tubular steel poles for lattice steel towers in the vicinity of Belcaro.
- DD.2-19 Please see Section C.10 (Noise) of the Draft EIR/EIS for a discussion of potential impacts related to noise, in association with the proposed Project and alternatives. Thank you for submitting your concerns regarding corona noise. Your concerns will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.
- DD.2-20 Please see Responses to Comments D.10 (responses to Brian Smith's August 29, 2006 Public Meeting Comments sheet).