

Comment Set C46

From: Camille Smith [mailto:spiritsmith@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thu 1/24/2008 3:30 PM
To: E ICasco
Subject: Underground Power Lines in SLCC

The letter below says it much better than I could so I am stating the I agree fully with the letter below.

Dr. Camille Smith, SLCC Resident

As a member of a group of concerned SLCC citizens, I am trying to get the SCE proposed power lines underground through our community. Let me assure each of you that this does **not** affect a "small minority of SLCC". It affects the **entire** community. It **will** affect property value of those living within eyesight of the proposed metal towers (which by the way will be about 35 feet taller than the wood ones we have now). People with golf course views will lose precious premiums they paid. Yes, this will affect their property value – it is noted in the Draft EIR! There is proof that these lines may potentially affect those with pacemakers and who have other health issues.

The LA Times & the San Diego Tribune reported that several of the recent California fires were caused by downed power lines. We have over 3,000 homes in Sun Lakes. If those fires didn't scare you, then maybe this will.... try to get over 5,000 seniors out of Sun Lakes should any of those lines be downed and cause a fire because of a storm or our very high winds!

Facts:

- 1) When power lines fall down or break, oftentimes they start fires. In San Diego County, the Pines Fire which burned 61,690 acres in 2002 and the Laguna Fire in 1970 burned 175,425 acres, 382 homes and killed eight. Both fires were started by downed power lines. These are in addition to the recent fires which I mentioned above.
- 2) It is a fact that In case of a fire, power lines make it harder to fight because they limit movement of firefighters. Larry Edwards, a Desert Southwest power dispatcher wrote that "The fire's smoke can ionize the air around conductors and can lead to arcing, where electricity from the line jumps to the ionized smoke particles-sort of like miniature... lightning bolts."
- 3) Firefighters are instructed not to cross under power lines, because of the risk of electrocution. During the Coachella Valley fire, firefighters had to stand idly while they waited for the utility company to turn off power lines.

C46-1

Comment Set C46, continued

The cost to place these lines underground is **nothing** to Sun Lakes! The cost is the burden of SCE. These lines will provide power to people in Beaumont, Calimesa, and Yucaipa and beyond, **not** us. Our power isn't even provided by SCE.

Either way the project is done, the golf course will be impaired temporarily. Just think of undergrounding these lines as a “short term pain for the long term gain.”

Please send an email to: elcasco@aspenerg.com no later than January 25, 2008 requesting the lines going through Sun Lakes be placed underground. Be sure to include your name, address and telephone number.

Thank you for your support in our community.

Nancy Darling

C46-1

Responses to Comment Set C46 – Camille Smith

- C46-1** Please see Draft EIR Sections D.7 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) for a discussion of fire hazards, and F.2.2 (Property Values). Your support for the Partial Underground Alternative has been noted. The Environmentally Superior Alternative has been re-evaluated and is identified in the Recirculated Draft EIR, Section E (July 2008) as the Proposed Project. Please see General Response GR-1 for a discussion regarding the change in determination of the Environmentally Superior Alternative.