

Email: SCE Ivanpah Control

From: Santeena Pugliese <teenamaree21@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 10:23 AM
To: Ivanpah-Control Project Team
Subject: Public Comment on Draft EIR – Ivanpah-Control 115 kV Project (Birch Creek Segment)

Dear CPUC and I-C EIR Team,

My name is Santeena Pugliese. I am a resident of the Birch Creek community in Inyo County and a partner working alongside the Owens Valley Indian Water Commission at Three Creeks, a property that has recently transitioned into tribal stewardship.

I am writing to express serious concern about the proposed alignment of the new 115 kV transmission line through the Birch Creek community, as described in Segments 1 and 2 of the Draft EIR.

This area is not just a residential neighborhood—it is a culturally sensitive landscape. There are known petroglyphs, obsidian flakes, and other cultural resources dispersed throughout this land. These are not isolated artifacts; they are part of a living cultural landscape. Any ground disturbance, new pole placement, or realignment could affect these resources in ways not fully captured in the current report.

I would like to request clarification on the following:

- Which specific tribal entities have been consulted in the development of this project?
- Have tribal monitors from local tribes been present during surveys or site assessments?
- What steps have been taken to ensure meaningful, ongoing consultation, rather than limited outreach?

Given the density and sensitivity of cultural resources in this area, consultation must be robust, place-based, and continuous.

In addition to cultural concerns, there are also aesthetic, ecological, and community health impacts that deserve deeper consideration. The Draft EIR should not limit “significance” to visual impacts alone (such as views of the

Sierra), but should also fully account for impacts to wildlife, water systems, and the well-being of residents living in close proximity to this infrastructure.

Importantly, I would like to propose consideration of a feasible alternative alignment that could reduce impacts to our community:

There is an opportunity to reroute a short segment of the line by removing existing poles (for example, poles 25 and 26) and installing a small number of new structures (approximately 4–5 poles) that would allow the line to cross to the opposite side of the existing corridor, bypass the Birch Creek residential area, and then cross back. This type of localized adjustment could avoid the need for a large-scale realignment while meaningfully reducing impacts to homes, cultural sites, and community character.

I strongly encourage the CPUC to evaluate this or similar micro-alternatives in greater detail in the Final EIR.

Lastly, I want to emphasize that this is a place of deep meaning—not only for those who live here now, but for the Indigenous communities who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. Projects like this must be approached with care, humility, and a commitment to avoiding harm wherever possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns.

Bella Giornata,
Santeena

[Core Partner with Three Creeks](#)

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“Be curious, not judgmental” — Walt Whitman