



The City of Burlingame

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February 10, 2003

Ms. Billie Blanchard
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94104

Re: Scoping for Environmental Impact Report on PG&E Proposal to Construct Jefferson-Martin
230kV Electrical Transmission System

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment for the scoping of the Environmental Impact Report for the Jefferson-Martin 230kV Electrical Transmission System being prepared for the California Public Utilities Commission. PG&E did not contact the City of Burlingame regarding its proposal or any of its alternatives, so this opportunity is very much appreciated.

We understand that residents along the Skyline Boulevard corridor and the Town of Hillsborough have eloquently raised a number of significant concerns regarding the aesthetics and health effects of the proposed transmission lines. The City of Burlingame shares those same concerns as reflected in the enclosed City Council resolution.

A number of the potential routes for the transmission lines also raise significant issues for public safety and possible effects on the public in both transitory and permanent ways.

We understand that a proposed alternative to one section of the line is to bring it over I-280 at Trousdale Drive and then bring it down Trousdale Drive underground to El Camino Real.

Of course the construction of such an undertaking would cause a horrendous disruption to the single-family residential neighborhoods located along Trousdale Drive, one of only a few east-west approaches to the City of Burlingame – particularly for residents and businesses in the north part of Burlingame and south part of Millbrae.

In addition, Trousdale Drive is immediately adjacent to Peninsula Hospital and its nearby medical centers, which comprise the key medical facility for Burlingame, Millbrae, and San Bruno. You should know that plans are being developed to rebuild the hospital in the next few years to be relocated closer to Trousdale and El Camino.

In addition, this proposed alternative would immediately affect the new BART station in Millbrae, which is slated to open with heavy traffic later this year.

In addition, the route down Trousdale Drive would intercept the central delivery main of the entire

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San Francisco water system near El Camino Real; in addition to the innumerable utility lines already occupying Trousdale Drive and El Camino Real, this huge water pipe poses a formidable obstacle for every manner of construction.

The proposed transmission towers are also suited for an upgrade from carrying a 60kV line and a 230kV line to two 230kV lines. Such a likely eventuality would interfere with every manner of electric appliance and use along the entire corridor. This eventuality should be addressed as part of the "project as a whole" as we understand that such an upgrade might not trigger any future review by the CPUC or anyone else.

The proposed route of zig-zagging the transmission system around I-280 appears to be subject to much simplification and cost reduction if it were run in a direct line along the west side of I-280. We understand that will be an alternative that will be studied.

The Harry Tracy Water Distribution Facility near the transmission line corridor is currently undergoing the addition of a chloramination facility, and effects from the transmission line, if any, should be evaluated.

Finally, the City is very concerned that local electrical service in Burlingame be improved. City residents have been subject to inexplicable interruptions over the past 5 years or more. PG&E has begun to study improvements that might improve the situation, and we do not know if these transmission lines will provide any relief. However, the impact of this transmission system on the dependability of local electrical service should be addressed.

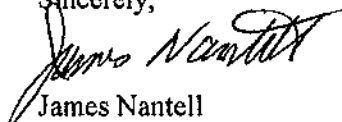
We hope these comments are useful in developing the scope of the environmental analysis. City contacts for further information are:

Margaret Monroe, City Planner
City of Burlingame
501 Primrose Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
650 - 558-7250

Syed Murtuza, City Engineer
City of Burlingame
501 Primrose Road
Burlingame, CA 94010
650 - 558-7246

Please do not hesitate to call on us if we can provide any further information.

Sincerely,


James Nantell
City Manager

cc: Mayor & Council, Director of Public Works, City Planner, Norm Torello

RESOLUTION 13-2003

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURLINGAME URGING
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION AND PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC TO
STUDY ALTERNATIVES TO LOCATING NEW ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE
IN THE SKYLINE BOULEVARD CORRIDOR**

RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Burlingame:

WHEREAS, the City Council understands that the PUC and Pacific Gas & Electric are studying the possibility of locating a 230kV transmission line between Woodside and San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, as currently proposed by PG&E, the new line would create a significant intrusion into the lives of the many people who live along Skyline Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, those residents have legitimate concerns about the effects that the new transmission lines will have on the health and safety of their families; and

WHEREAS, the transmission lines as proposed will have a significant effect on the views and enjoyment of the residents' properties by their new height and breadth; and

WHEREAS, citizens are entitled to a meaningful discussion of the range of alternatives available to mitigate or avoid these problems; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that there has to be a better way of providing necessary electrical power to San Francisco than the current proposal,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. PG&E is urged to provide meaningful answers, discussion, and analysis of the range of alternatives available to it to mitigate or eliminate the potential adverse effects of the proposed 230kV transmission lines on the residents of the Skyline Boulevard Corridor.

2. The California Public Utilities Commission is urged to ensure that PG&E provides meaningful answers, discussion, and analysis of the range of alternatives available to it to mitigate or eliminate the potential adverse effects of the proposed 230kV transmission lines on the residents of the Skyline Boulevard Corridor and is further urged to continue to give due consideration to the issues raised by the 280 Corridor Concerned Citizens, the Town of Hillsborough, and others on this issue.

3. The City Clerk is requested to send a certified copy of this resolution to the California Public Utilities Commission and Pacific Gas & Electric.


MAYOR

I, ANN T. MUSSO, City Clerk of the City of Burlingame, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 3rd day of February, 2003, and was adopted thereafter by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS: BAYLCOCK, COFFEY, GALLIGAN, JANNEY, O'MAHONY
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS: NONE
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: NONE


CITY CLERK

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