



Sequoia Audubon Society

Billie Blanchard
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery St., Suite 800
San Francisco, Ca 94104-2906

Feb. 20, 2003

Dear Ms Blanchard,

Sequoia Audubon Society wishes to raise questions to be studied in the environmental impact report for the proposed Jefferson-Martin 230 kv Transmission Line Project by P. G. and E. Co., application No. A-02-09-043.

Although there are numerous important and valid questions that have been raised during the public scoping sessions which deserve serious study our comments are related primarily to concerns about wildlife and habitat.

First, we urge the careful study of the potential impact of larger and taller towers and more power lines on birds. The greatest impact may be on raptors, both migrating and resident, hunting, roosting, or flying through the area. However, the effect on other resident and migratory birds should also be critically considered. What would be the effects of undergrounding the lines as compared to erecting towers, particularly if routed outside sensitive areas of Edgewood Park?

Secondly, the ecological and scenic qualities of the 280 corridor which is part of a Scenic and Recreational Easement adjoining an area designated as an international heritage site should be an important backdrop for the environmental impact study. The San Francisco Watershed is known to be the most ecologically diverse area in the Bay Area. How does the construction phase and long term presence of the proposed towers affect these qualities? By comparison, how would undergrounding the lines affect them?

Thank you for considering our comments; we look forward to reviewing the EIR when completed.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Wilkinson
Sequoia Audubon Society Conservation Committee

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