

## Comment Set 53

### Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

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**From:** erika\_crockett@agilent.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2003 9:48 AM  
**To:** jeffmartin@aspenerg.com  
**Cc:** erika\_crockett@agilent.com  
**Subject:** Response/ Input to Draft EIR: Proposed Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Line Project & Alternatives

**Importance:** High

**To:** CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)  
Response/ Input to Draft EIR  
Proposed Jefferson-Martin 230kV Transmission Line Project & Alternatives

Thursday, August 28, 2003

Name: Ivan & Erika Crockett  
Affiliation: Residents of San Mateo County Highlands - members of 280CCC  
Address: 2004 Lexington Ave  
City, State, Zip Code: San Mateo, CA 94402  
Telephone Number: 650 345 8681  
Email: erika\_crockett@agilent.com

We live in the Highlands in San Mateo County, right along the open space between the Highlands Community and I-280. The current dual circuit 60kV transmission line runs behind our house, and a transmission line tower is located right behind our property. On every foggy or wet day, we are subjected to loud buzzing noises coming from the present transmission lines due to corona discharge and arcing caused by dirty and poorly maintained insulators.

Having attended the recent CPUC meeting at San Mateo City Hall for the presentation of the Draft EIR and the follow up CPUC Public Participation Hearings also at San Mateo City Hall, we would like to voice the following inputs and concerns:

1) The proposed project, PG&E's favored Route 1A, is totally unacceptable to Highlands' residents for health, safety, environmental, aesthetical and negative property value reasons. The only winner here, would be PG&E and maybe San Francisco; Highlands' residents would bear tremendous negative impact.

2) of the alternatives considered and presented in the Draft EIR, none provide a total solution for the residents along the transmission line corridor. The proposed Partial Underground Alternative route along the Highlands is unacceptable to Highlands' residents as well for health, safety and negative property value reasons. We favor Alternative 1B, i.e. undergrounding along Canada Road and west of I-280, with the following modifications:

a) We would like to propose that Alternative 1B along the Highlands' Community be modified to include undergrounding the existing Highlands' dual circuit 60kV transmission line. Given today's technology and equipment, there should be no excuse not to arrive at a mutually (PG&E/ residents) acceptable solution/ compromise. We also have little appreciation that under so-called CEQA rules, if the new 230kV line is undergrounded per Alternative 1B along the Highlands, the double 60kV could not be included with the 230kV underground. PG&E wants to rebuild the 60kV lines (the current lines were build in the 1950's); undergrounding the dual circuit 60kV transmission line per the Alternative 1B solution in the Highlands'

53-1

53-2

## Comment Set 53, cont.

area would add greatly to the reliability of the transmission line system overall. With good will, a technical and environmental superior solution for the Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Line Project would be implemented, and PG&E's image with customers would be greatly improved.

b) For Burlingame, we would like to propose that Alternative 1B be modified to follow the proposed Partial Underground Alternative route segment for the Burlingame area, i.e. 'to follow a new corridor west of I-280 in order to eliminate the existing and proposed towers from the area adjacent to residences in Burlingame' as stated in the Draft EIR Executive Summary, page ES-33.

It is not clear to us why in the Burlingame area, under so-called CEQA rules, the proposed Partial Underground Alternative route would be allowed to include the existing dual 60kV line with the new 230kV line in the new corridor west of I-280 to eliminate negative impact for the Burlingame route residents. The same scenario exists for Highlands' residents. However, in the Draft EIR, the Alternative 1B proposal does not include undergrounding the existing dual circuit 60kV transmission line.

In conclusion, we would like to recommend the following:

- 1) Implement Alternative 1B along the Highlands' Community with the modification to include undergrounding the existing Highlands' area dual circuit 60kV transmission line.
- 2) Modify Alternative 1B in the Burlingame area to follow the proposed Partial Underground Alternative route segment for the Burlingame area.

Thank you for your consideration. Thank you for allowing us input.  
Erika & Ivan Crockett

53-2

## Responses to Comment Set 53 – Erika and Ivan Crockett

- 53-1 Corona noise is addressed in Sections D.11.3 (Noise and Vibration) under Impact N-3, Corona Noise from the Operation of the Overhead Transmission Line. PG&E states that it is unaware of any maintenance requests in the project area. Also, please see Response to Comment G-4.

The commenters' opposition to the Proposed Project is noted. Please see General Responses GR-1 and GR-2 for discussions of EMF and property values, respectively. EIR Section D.3 presents a detailed analysis of visual impacts of the Proposed Project and alternatives, including identification of significant visual impacts along Lexington Avenue. In addition, each individual issue area within Section D of the Draft EIR, discusses potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures of the Proposed Project. General Response GR-3 discusses the benefits and burdens of the Proposed Project.

- 53-2 The commenters' concerns about the Partial Underground Alternative are noted. Please see Response to Comment 53-1 (above). Support for Alternative 1B with modifications, including collocation and following the Partial Underground Alternative past Burlingame, is also noted. Please refer to Appendix 1, Section 4.2.2 for a discussion of the CEQA legal issues regarding line collocation of the 60 kV line with the Underground Route Option 1B Alternative, as well as Appendix 1, Section 2.3.2.1 for a general discussion regarding legal collocation feasibility and conditions.

## Comment Set 54

1808 Black Mountain Road  
Hillsborough, CA  
Tel: (650) 343-9730

August 28, 2003

Billie Blanchard  
California Public Utilities Commission  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

RE: Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Project

Dear Commissioner Blanchard;

The undersigned have resided continuously at 1808 Black Mountain Road since 1971. One of the reasons we selected this location was its great natural beauty overlooking the undeveloped San Francisco Water District land across the street, and the mountains that are about a mile to the west. The Water District land serves as a de facto game preserve and provides a refuge for numerous species of wild animals including deer, foxes, coyotes, wildcats, and birds such as meadow larks, robins, hawks, geese and quail. Many residences are located along the Highway 280 corridor. If not properly mitigated the Jefferson Martin project has the potential to do great damage to the 280 corridors.

54-1

We have reviewed the Executive Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Jefferson-Martin project and feel strongly that the alternative that should be selected is PG&E's 1B with Underground 60 kV Line. This would greatly mitigate the adverse visual, cultural, and biological impacts of the existing 60kV overhead electric lines and towers as well as the planned 230kV overhead lines and towers, and reduce the potential danger to human health that is associated with living in close proximity to high voltage electric lines.

54-2

In the event that that PG&E's 1B with Underground 60 kV cannot be accomplished, we strongly favor PG&E's 1B which, it is noted, has been selected as the environmentally superior alternative in the Draft Environmental Impact Report. We believe that any additional costs that may be associated with either of our preferred alternatives are justified in view of the great benefits to be derived from mitigating the potential adverse impacts which have been previously enumerated.

54-3

Thank you for your consideration.


Sincerely,

*Richard and Barbara Kuersteiner*  
Richard and Barbara Kuersteiner

## **Responses to Comment Set 54 – Richard and Barbara Kuersteiner and George T. Lenehan**

- 54-1 Sections D.2.1 and D.2.3 (Land Use), D.3.1 and D.3.3 (Visual Resources), D.4.1 and D.4.3 (Biological Resources), and D.9.1 and D.9.3 (Recreation) in the Draft EIR, discuss the ecological and/or scenic qualities of the environmental setting of the I-280 corridor and the SFPUC Watershed, and how the Proposed Project would affect each individual issue area (both construction and operational phases). As mentioned above, Section D.4.3 (Biological Resources, Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures for the Proposed Project), in the Draft EIR discusses the impacts of the Proposed Project on wildlife and the watershed, and recommends mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts.
- 54-2 Please refer to Section 4.2.2 in Appendix 1 for a discussion of PG&E's Route Option 1B with Undergrounding the 60 kV Line and the rationale for elimination due to inconsistencies with CEQA law. Also, please see Appendix 1, Section 2.3.2.1 for a discussion of the legal issues regarding line collocation.
- 54-3 The commenters' support of PG&E Route Option 1B is noted.

## Comment Set 55

 CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)  
**Informational Meeting – Comments**  
Proposed Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Line Project

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Tuesday, July 29, 2003      *page 1 of 3*  
Thursday, July 31, 2003

Name\*: BETTINA & Stephen Holquist      8-28-03

Affiliation (if any)\*: 280 CCC

Address\*: 1305 Skyview Dr

City, State, Zip Code\*: Burlingame CA 94010

Telephone Number\*: 650 579 7335

Email\*: Seequist@AOL.com

We are residents who live extremely close to the proposed  
People Jefferson-Martin 230 transmission project. Our address  
is 1305 Skyview Dr in Burlingame. The existing 60 KV tower is  
approx. 30 feet from our back property. Like all of our  
neighbors we are extremely concerned about this project that  
has the potential to have life altering consequences with  
negative impact on the quality of our lives. Please consider  
the following concerns:

1. Property Values - The existing property values of our home  
is currently less than a comparable home in Burlingame,  
because of the 60 KV lines. With the much larger and  
more powerful 230 KV towers and lines we are concerned  
that our property value will decrease inversely proportion  
to the increase in EMF. Our home is our primary  
investment for our family's future.

\*Please print. Your name, address, and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.

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Please either deposit this sheet at the sign-in table before you leave today, or fold, stamp, and mail. Insert additional sheets if needed. Comments must be received by August 28, 2003. Comments may also be faxed to the project hotline at (650) 240-1720 or emailed to jeffmartin@aspeng.com.

55-1

## Comment Set 55, cont.

2. The Visual Impact - We have a <sup>page 2 of 3</sup> spectacular view of the Crystal Springs watershed area. The scenic views would have an unthinkable negative impact in the IA PGE proposal. The negative visual impact stated in the DEIR on the beautiful 280 corridor should also include the scenic disruption of its residents. 55-2
3. The noise factor - We are extremely concerned about the increased buzzing noise that would surely be increased proportional to the increase in kilovoltage of the proposed lines. On a foggy day one can easily hear buzzing when outside our home. The impact of this will have a negative impact and possibly a health impact on our 2 dogs, our disabled son as well as ourselves. Anyone who has ever suffered from buzzing of the inner ear or tinnitus is testament that it can literally drive you crazy. The noise from lines however can't be treated, it would be a permanent irritant. 55-3
4. The Skyview Sandwich - portions of the all underground route along Skyline Blvd. would essentially "sandwich" residents on our block between an overhead 60 Kv to the west and the proposed 230 Kv to the east. Both routes would run extremely close to our property lines, completely encircling us in an EMF field. 55-4
5. Peninsula Pays the Price for San Francisco's power while San Francisco will receive almost all of the benefits of the proposed project the residents of the Peninsula will suffer all of the negative environmental impacts. 55-5
6. Increased Health Risks - The increased health risks posed by the 230 Kv transmission system is of utmost concern. Valuable research studies 55-6

## Comment Set 55, cont.

page 3 of 3

have been done and many scientists do believe that EMF's are associated with increases in a number of types of cancers and serious diseases. Our son is physically disabled and has a serious Cardiac Condition. Even the potential for increase health risk is of extreme concern to us. Our son is in a wheelchair and spends a good part of his day in his room which is the closest to the back property line or in our back yard. He enjoys playing with his dogs, the sense of being in the country and the view. One of our greatest concerns is allowing him to spend time in the back yard if the proposed 230 kv towers as in plan 1A were built.

55-6

Twelve years ago we purchased our home. It is a modest home that is accessible for our son, in a tranquil setting with a spectacular view. Today, we have very real concerns about the proposed Jefferson - Martin 230 kv transmission project. As residents of the 280 corridor and Burlingame we request that the PG&E preferred Route 1A be totally rejected. If this project is in fact justified we request a modified or partial underground that would collocate the existing 60 kv line with the 230 kv line either over head or underground, west of Highway 280, avoiding homes in Hillsborough and Burlingame.

55-7

Thank You for addressing these important issues,

Sincerely, Bettina  Stephen P. Holquist



## Responses to Comment Set 55 – Bettina and Stephen Holquist

- 55-1 Please refer to General Response GR-2 regarding property values.
- 55-2 EIR Section D.3 presents a detailed analysis of visual impacts of the Proposed Project and alternatives, including identification of significant visual impacts in Burlingame in Section D.3.3 (Impact V-13, Carolands Substation to Transition Station).
- 55-3 Corona noise is addressed in Sections D.11.3 (Noise and Vibration) under Impact N-3, Corona Noise from the Operation of the Overhead Transmission Line. Also, please see Response to Comment G-4.
- 55-4 Please refer to text addition in Section D.8.7.4 of this Final EIR regarding the “sandwich” issue in the Burlingame area under PG&E Route Option 1B. Also, please see General Response GR-1 for a discussion of EMF.
- 55-5 Please see Responses to Comments 40-4 and 40-5, as well as General Response GR-3, regarding the benefits and burdens of the Proposed Project. It is not accurate to say that the residents of San Mateo County would not benefit from the project.
- 55-6 For a discussion of public health and safety concerns regarding EMF, please see General Response GR-1.
- 55-7 The commenters’ opposition to the Proposed Project is noted. The need for this project is not addressed or decided within this EIR (see Response to Comment CC8-1). The Administrative Law Judge evaluates project need during the General Proceeding based on information presented by PG&E, Cal ISO, and other parties.

Please refer to Response to Comment PPH1-10 for discussion of routes west of I-280. Please refer to Appendix 1, Section 2.3.2.1 for a discussion of the CEQA legal issues regarding line collocation. It is noted that a significant portion of the Partial Underground Alternative would be west of I-280 (north of Hayne Road). The commenter’s opposition to the Proposed Project and preference for underground or overhead collocation of the existing and proposed lines west of I-280 past Hillsborough and Burlingame are noted.

## Comment Set 56

Billie Blanchard, California Public Utilities Commission  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

8/28/2003

Re: Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report: Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Proposed Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Line Project CPCN Application No. 02-09-043, SCH No. 2003012066

Dear Ms. Blanchard,

I am living with a 1.8 kW Photovoltaic (PV) system for 2 years now and would like to expound upon the solar technology alternative based on my studies of how to design and install PV systems. I felt that the PV technology alternative needs expanding in the DEIR:

- The insolation levels (sun fall on the earth's surface) average 5.4 peak sun hours per day in many bay area communities which means consistent PV output in our region. On clear cold days PV creates the most electricity. On cloudy and rainy days it still creates some electricity. In fact, after 720 days of continuous operation, the smallest output recorded on my 1.8 kW roof top PV array was about 20% of the maximum. Low producing days are the exception, as the vast majority of the time between 70% to 95% of the maximum electricity production output is realized.
- Payback to homeowners: PV system increase a building's market value by as much as the cost of the installed system (market data to prove this hypothesis should be available within 5 years, once there is sufficient property turnover to gather reliable data on this relatively new technology). As retail electricity prices rise an installed PV system becomes more valuable. Time of use metering reduces payback to less than 15 years. High initial cost can be financed at today's low interest rates so that the cost of the monthly loan is less than the previous electric bill for a homeowner. A PV system will continue to generate electricity long after it pays for itself. Since money is very important in a capitalistic system like ours, it is important to consider that the utilities have a financial stake in building more transmission lines since they get a guaranteed return on investment. To help balance out this financial conflict of interest it is incumbent upon the CPUC to deny transmission lines when distributed generation could fill the need at a net financial benefit for the electricity users!
- Long life of solar panels: Typical manufacturer warranties are 25 years for the PV modules. The solar panels themselves have nothing to wear out and could theoretically last for more than 1 human lifetime (there is no known reason why a solar panel will wear out due to use for the monocrystalline and polycrystalline technologies that dominate the market).
- The need for CPUC acceptance and promotion: It is entirely appropriate the CPUC to require and encourage PV as it benefits all of society.
- Solar electric production causes absolutely NO pollution from operation. There is a substantial environmental benefit realized by using electricity created by PV compared to traditional supply sources. Only a small amount of toxic chemicals are used in the manufacturing process to make solar panels and this is easily controllable with modern manufacturing methods and does not cause any significant environmental problems whatsoever! In fact photovoltaics could possibly be the most environmentally benign form of generating electricity.
- PV operation is quiet and interfaces wonderfully with human habitats. Beautiful solar panels show others that the residents care about the environment and how their electricity is created. Visible solar panels are a silent reminder of where electricity production can come from.
- Asset to neighborhoods: PV arrays are a real asset to neighborhoods because the electricity produced is used by the neighbors at peak output times when the meter spins backwards and adds high quality electricity to the local grid.

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## Comment Set 56, cont.

56-3

- Need to change past polluting ways and move to renewables. There is an obvious environmental need to curtail toxic air emissions, the pollution caused by strip mining coal, nuclear waste, and finally CO2 emissions which are rapidly accumulating in the atmosphere and are causing devastating heat waves and melting of glaciers which provide fresh water supply to humans (such as the Sierra snow melt that provides drinking water to the Crystal Springs reservoir that we are trying to protect from above ground transmission lines).
- External environmental costs are borne by different people than just the users of electricity. These externalities are not factored into the price of tradition energy supply sources.
- Solar panels shade roof tops and cool off buildings during the hot summer spells.
- Solar PV systems do not create high levels of EMFs that can cause physiological damage to persons in close proximity to high voltage transmission lines for long periods of time.
- Solar technology really works and net metering makes it possible: California is a leader in proving emerging environmental solutions such as PV with net metering This enables electric users to get credit for the extra energy produced during the day and makes PV very practical for property owners.
- Short energy payback: The energy used to make solar panels is recouped within 2 to 3 years by the energy production of the panels. This sun is a renewable resource that will continue to provide free energy long after the price of natural gas spikes because of supply shortages.
- Distributed generation reduces grid loading especially at peak times when it is the most valuable in reducing the need to build expensive new transmission lines. There is very little transmission loss to distributed generation since the energy produced is used locally, thus increasing efficiency.
- PV makes energy production visible to consumers so conservation becomes a daily ethic. It is fun at the end of the day to check out the daily output of one's PV system, thus encouraging energy conservation. This helps provide an incentive to be more motivated to live within an "energy budget", thus encouraging personal responsibility with energy use.
- The future of PV is very promising. The future expansion of PV solar is inevitable and it is prudent to pursue policies aimed at expanding its potential "market share". In fact it is foolish not to encourage its use at every opportunity.
- The future climate change avoided has real environmental and economic value that is not factored in to the initial cost of a PV system (or any other energy supply source for that matter), but should never the less be considered as part of the decision making process as to whether to install a PV system or not! Externalities of fossil fuels and nuclear are shared by all of society, and these costs must also be considered in any sort of thoughtful and responsible decision on how to create and transmit electricity in an environmentally benign way.

Sincerely,

Kurt Newick,  
649 Weston Drive  
Campbell, CA 95008

Tel: 408/370-9636  
Email: KurtNewick@yahoo.com

## Responses to Comment Set 56 – Kurt Newick

- 56-1 Please refer to Response to Comment CC8-8 for a discussion of renewable resource technologies, including solar power. Solar technologies were eliminated from consideration because they did not meet the objectives of the Proposed Project, per the rationale discussed in Section 4.5.2.2 in Appendix 1 of the Draft EIR. Therefore, it was not necessary to carry the alternative further through the tiering process and analyze potential environmental impacts in depth.

## Comment Set 57

Via Email [jeffmartin@aspeneg.com](mailto:jeffmartin@aspeneg.com)

28 August 2003

Billie Blanchard, CPUC  
C/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

I am writing to express my continued concern regarding the Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Line Project. I am aware that you are receiving many letters regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and will thus keep this short and just briefly express my ongoing concerns.

- ❖ **HEALTH IMPACTS** - I am sure the CPUC is aware of a June 2002 study by the California Department of Health Services (DHS). That study indicates that DHS scientists are inclined to believe that EMFs are associated with an increased risk of childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, Lou Gehrig's disease and miscarriage. These risks are a grave concern to all of us located near the proposed project site. We have no desire to become the test case. Once these risks become a reality, the damage is irreparable and nothing can be done. I have to wonder why anyone would choose to take such risks when there are other lower risk alternatives. Human life should not take a second chair to the financial affects a project has on a corporation or company. It should be a loud wake up call that a mere 5% of residences in the U.S. are exposed to the EMF levels that would occur in many houses from this line. It is estimated that children in these homes are twice as likely to develop childhood leukemia as their non-exposed peers. (Source: 2003 Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Inc.) I cite this as just one of the many studies containing data regarding EMFs and the possible link to cancer and other diseases. I urge the CPUC to carefully consider the health issues, concerns and risks associated with the proposed project.
  
- ❖ **VISUAL IMPACTS** — The DEIR understates the visual impacts the project may have on the San Mateo Highlands Community and in particular those properties on Lexington Avenue. The properties which back to the watershed open space are considered desirable for their view of the open space and forested ridges. To say these ridges are “partially visible from some vantage points” along Lexington Avenue is an inaccurate characterization. The impact of this project especially to the properties adjacent to it is significant. While many of us bought our homes well aware of the existing towers and lines, none of us foresaw the beauty of this open space property could or would be destroyed by unsightly oversized towers.

The open space between Highway 280 and the San Mateo Highlands is of high quality and valued by the public. Today expanding cities strive to preserve greenbelts surrounding neighborhoods and developments, not only to preserve boundaries but also

57-1

57-2

## Comment Set 57, cont.

for their aesthetic benefits. The new towers and lines are highly incompatible with preserving this greenbelt. and would lead to a substantial reduction in visual quality.

57-2

New towers and lines are incompatible with the existing open space and would substantially reduce the existing, landscape which is predominately rolling berms, wild grass, shrubs and flowers and a smitten of trees with much smaller electric utility poles and wires. The proposed towers and lines are much more imposing structures and more distracting than the existing. View of the proposed towers cannot be mitigated absent the obvious mitigation measure, undergrounding the lines.

Furthermore, Highway 280 is a designated scenic route, the proposed project visibility is high, due to motorist visibility, therefore the DEIR implicitly understates the impact this project would have. There is not question that the project has a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. The project would substantially degrade the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings;

- ❖ FINANCIAL - Property values will be negatively impacted, and not just those immediately next to the lines. As more and more studies come out concerning the negative impacts, property values of those located near, or around the site will see a decline. As most people are aware, a home is often the single greatest investment a person makes. Many plan to use the value of their home as a nest egg for retirement, who is going to compensate those who lose their investment due to this project? The reduction in value is a taking, the damages are real and would need to be compensated in some way.
- ❖ EQUITY - Peninsula residents will bear all of the environmental and visual impacts of the new transmission line despite the fact that the primary purpose of the project is to provide power to San Francisco. Why is this burden being shifted to the people and property not most likely to benefit from the project. It seems there are other alternatives to meet the supposed power needs of San Francisco without imposing such negative consequences on Peninsula residences.

57-3

57-4

The impact to the San Mateo Highlands is great, the project includes not only larger, taller overhead towers behind the homes but it also negatively impacts the neighborhood on both the north and south ends with modifications to substations and junctions.

I urge you to listen to those most impacted by this project and not ignore the individuals. We have come together and have provided compelling reasons to reevaluate and more closely consider this project, its impact and whether or not it is even needed.

Sincerely Yours,

/s/

Pamela S. Merkadeau

## Responses to Comment Set 57 – Pamela S. Merkadeau

- 57-1 Please refer to General Response GR-1 for a response regarding EMF.
- 57-2 The scenic quality of the project area is acknowledged in EIR Sections D.2 (Land Use), D.3 (Visual Resources), and D.9 (Recreation). Appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed under each issue area in Section D of the EIR to reduce potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project.
- 57-3 Please see General Response GR-2 regarding property values.
- 57-4 The need for this project is not addressed or decided within this EIR (see Response to Comment CC8-1). The CPUC Administrative Law Judge evaluates project need during the General Proceeding with information presented by PG&E, Cal ISO, and other parties. Please see Responses to Comments 40-4 and 40-5, as well as General Response GR-3, regarding the benefits and burdens of the Proposed Project. It is not accurate to say that the residents of San Mateo County would not benefit from the project.

## Comment Set 58

### Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

**From:** Kratter, Les [lkratter@frk.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2003 3:09 PM  
**To:** 'jeffmartin@aspeneq.com'  
**Subject:** Jefferson -Martin Project

My wife and I have resided at 1600 Marlborough Road in Hillsborough, California since 1979. Among other reasons, we moved to the area because of its natural beauty and environmental integrity.

We have reviewed the Executive Summary of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the project and strongly support Alternative 1B with the underground 60kv line. We are concerned about health hazards, environmental damage to the 280 corridor and the strongly negative impact on property values in the area.

In the event that undergrounding of the existing 60kV line cannot be accomplished, we support P.G. & E's alternative 1B.

**58-1**

3/28/03



## Responses to Comment Set 58 – Les Kratter

58-1 Potential effects and appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed under each issue area in Section D of the EIR to reduce potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. Please see General Responses GR-1 and GR-2 for a discussion of EMF and property values, respectively.

Please see Section 4.2.2 in Appendix 1 for a discussion of PG&E's Route Option 1B with Undergrounding the 60 kV Line and the rationale for elimination due to inconsistencies with CEQA law, as well as Appendix 1, Section 2.3.2.1 for a general discussion of the legal issues regarding collocation of transmission lines. The commenter's support of PG&E Route Option 1B is noted.

## Comment Set 59

### Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

**From:** Phillip Dixon [dixon@pacbell.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2003 11:07 AM  
**To:** jeffmartin@aspeneg.com  
**Subject:** 280 corridor project

As long term residents of San Mateo County and the Highlands we would like to add our voices towards the need to place towers away from homes or else underground where ever possible regardless of the extra costs involved. The safety and health issues far outweigh the monetary costs to PG&E.  
Sincerely,  
Phil & Arline Dixon

**59-1**

8/28/03

## Responses to Comment Set 59 – Phillip Dixon

- 59-1 The commenter's support for placing the towers away from homes or underground wherever possible is noted. This Draft EIR does not address cost in the evaluation of alternatives. Cost of the Proposed Project and alternatives is addressed by the CPUC Administrative Law Judge in the general proceeding on the project. Please refer to General Response GR-1 regarding EMF.

## Comment Set 60

### Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

**From:** Esther Emergui Gillette [esther@seeimports.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2003 1:14 PM  
**To:** jeffmartin@aspeneg.com

Billie Blanchard, CPUC  
C/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Ms. Blanchard,

I am writing on behalf of my family and neighbors to urge you to have PG&E use an alternative route to the plan for 1A development for the Jefferson Martin project.

I am living with my family - 2 daughters under age four, and my parents, both over 60 on Lakeview. We are on Lakeview with open space behind the house with the current lines very close.

I am worried for several reasons, but the first is the health of my family. I have a young friend who not long ago was diagnosed with Leukemia - she is now thirteen and in remission, thank G-d. I see what her family went through, and for a few years the PG&E lines that were extremely close to her old home in San Mateo were thought to possibly have contributed to her illness. There was a cluster of cancer patients in her old neighborhood. They since have moved to a new neighborhood - one that would become affected by the 1A plan. Now I think about my young friend, my daughters and I pray that this could not happen again. Even though there may be the slightest risk, why take it? Isn't it better in the long run to invest in our future than have to pay a premium later?

My second worry is the real estate value. My parents have worked hard for many years. My Dad started working when he was nine years old, and my mother didn't come from a well-to-do family at all. For them to have actually been able to purchase a house in Hillsborough was an extremely large sacrifice, and still is, due to the economy. My parents worked hard in the home furnishings industry, which is suffering immensely. Unlike many companies who just go bankrupt, they have sacrificed every last cent to keep the business going. Their home IS their retirement. I am sure they are not the only folks in this same proverbial 'boat'. I want for them to be able to have a decent retirement and any home devaluation would be a detriment not only to them, but to our neighbors, our community and also reflect poorly on PG&E.

PG&E could benefit marvelously from keeping our local aesthetics from declining, and keeping our community safe. Interstate 280 is touted as the most beautiful highway in the world - let's keep it that way!

Esther Emergui Gillette  
1415 Lakeview Drive  
Hillsborough, CA 94010  
esther@seeimports.com

60-1

60-2

## Responses to Comment Set 60 – Esther Emergui Gillette

- 60-1 The commenter's opposition to the Proposed Project is noted. Please see General Response GR-1 regarding EMF.
- 60-2 Please see General Response GR-2 regarding property values. The scenic quality of the project area is acknowledged in EIR Sections D.2 (Land Use), D.3 (Visual Resources), and D.9 (Recreation). Appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed under each issue area in Section D of the EIR to reduce potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project.

## Comment Set 61

### Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

**From:** Brigitte Shearer [bshearer@pierceshearer.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2003 10:44 AM  
**To:** jeffmartin@aspeneg.com  
**Cc:** Katherine Carlin  
**Subject:** 280CCC

Jeff -

We are sending our comments regarding the proposed power lines and their effect on the residents of the San Mateo Highlands.

1. We now know that EMFs are dangerous. PLEASE put these power lines underground and as far away from homes and schools as possible. Source: 2003 Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Inc.
2. We know that these power lines are possibly unnecessary due to the recent economic downturn in the Bay Area
3. We know that these power lines are unsightly - does PG&E have the right to destroy our health AND our home values???
4. We know that PG&E has not properly maintained the power lines currently in place near our neighborhood
4. We know that there is a reasonable option that will keep everyone happy: put the power lines underground and AWAY from people.

It's so simple. Why can't PG&E just be expected to live up to the statements on its own website:

"We're committed to the environment - from backyard to redwood forest."  
"Pacific Gas and Electric Company is committed to being an environmental leader by providing safe, economical, and reliable products and services in a responsible and environmentally sensitive manner."  
"We have long been known as a company that cares for all of the communities we serve."

If PG&E were really being sensitive, responsible and caring, we would not be having any of these discussions in the first place - the lines would have planned to be put underground from the beginning. Either PG&E does not feel obliged to live up to its own grandiose promises, or we and PG&E have very different understandings of the meaning of commitment, safety and environmental sensitivity - and PGE's understanding is solely driven by the almighty dollar. I'm curious: do any PG&E executives or decisionmakers on this project live anywhere near the affected areas? I suspect not. They know better.

Our neighborhood has spent thousands of hours and dollars to resist PG&E. We all do everything we can to keep our families safe and healthy, yet we are all at the mercy of many unexpected events - accidents, etc. The power lines being constructed should not be something that happens to us 'by accident' - higher incidences of leukemia, etc., etc., don't happen 'by accident', and when the statistics confirm these higher rates in our neighborhood 5, 10, 15 years from now, it will be too late to fix the problem. The damage will have been done.

But in this case, we DO have the ability to make a difference. We have the ability to resist allowing these dangerous power lines near our homes. Please be the voice of reason and insist that our children be kept safe.

Thank you  
Brigitte Shearer  
Pete Shearer

Brigitte Shearer  
Pierce & Shearer LLP  
730 Polhemus Road, Suite 101  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
tel 650-573-9300 x103  
fax 650-378-8152

61-1

61-2

61-3

61-4

61-5

## **Responses to Comment Set 61 – Brigitte and Pete Shearer**

- 61-1 For a discussion of public health and safety concerns regarding EMF, please see General Response GR-1.
- 61-2 Please see Responses to Comments 23-1 and 40-7 for a discussion of need of the Proposed Project. Section A.2, Purpose and Need for the Proposed Project, briefly discusses need and recent area load forecasts (see also Tables A-1 and A-2).
- 61-3 EIR Section D.3 presents a detailed analysis of visual impacts of the Proposed Project and alternatives, including identification of significant visual impacts. Please see General Response GR-1 regarding EMF, as well as General Response GR-2 regarding property values.
- 61-4 It is beyond the scope of this EIR to address current operations and maintenance practices of the Applicant. In addition, in response to a data request from the CPUC, PG&E states that it is unaware of any maintenance requests in the project area.
- 61-5 For a discussion of public health and safety concerns regarding EMF, please see General Response GR-1. The commenters' support for underground alternatives that would be removed from residences is noted.

## Comment Set 62

Billie Blanchard, CPUC  
C/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to comment on the draft EIR for the Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Project. I am a homeowner in Hillsborough, with property adjacent to the greenbelt where the current 60kV line is located and where the new 230kV line would be located.

**62-1**

I oppose the current proposed project. The main reason for my opposition is the increase in visual contamination that the project will bring to our area. Secondly, I am concerned about the potential impact on public health due to increased EMF, and the failure of the EIR to recognize this.

**62-2**

Interstate 280 is designated as Scenic Highway, but the designation appears totally meaningless. PG&E is free to propose a project that will substantially change the visual characteristics of the 280 corridor. The draft EIR deals with visual impact, but only as it relates to county policies. Common sense would indicate that such a project be “stopped dead”, being adjacent to a federal Scenic Highway.

**62-3**

With regard to public health issues, the recent studies, (particularly the DHS study) would indicate that all reasonable steps should be taken not to INCREASE the danger to residents and school children. On other issues, such as cigarette smoking, our government leaders have explained the risks to public health and left it up to the individual citizen whether they prefer to smoke. What right does our government have to approve this project which WILL subject citizens to health risks AND THEY HAVE NO CHOICE.

**62-4**

I appreciate the efforts to mitigate the adverse impacts of the project, as they are documented in the draft EIR. I strongly urge disapproval of the proposed project, in favor of any of the documented alternatives.

Sincerely yours,

Harvey Schmit  
1625 Wedgwood Drive  
Hillsborough, CA 94010  
Tel: 650-340-9467



## Responses to Comment Set 62 – Harvey Schmit

- 62-1 EIR Section D.3 presents a detailed analysis of visual impacts of the Proposed Project and alternatives, including identification of significant visual impacts.
- 62-2 Please see General Response GR-1 regarding EMF.
- 62-3 Please see General Response GR-2 regarding property values. The scenic quality of the project area is acknowledged in EIR Sections D.2 (Land Use), D.3 (Visual Resources), and D.9 (Recreation). Appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed under each issue area in Section D of the EIR to reduce potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. Class I significant and unmitigable visual impacts still exist along the I-280 corridor and in the areas around Lexington Avenue, Black Mountain Road, Skyview Drive, Loma Vista Drive, and the proposed transition station site. The existence of the scenic highway designation is acknowledged in the first paragraph of EIR Section D.3.1, and this designation was considered in the visual resources impact analysis.
- 62-4 Please see General Response GR-1 regarding EMF. As discussed in Section D.8.7.4, Consideration of Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF), no-cost/low-cost mitigation is proposed by PG&E with priority given to schools and daycare centers and then residences.

The commenter's opposition to the Proposed Project and support for any alternative is noted.

## Comment Set 63

### Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

**From:** Minkels4@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2003 9:29 PM  
**To:** jeffmartin@aspeneq.com  
**Subject:** 280 cc

I write to you as a very concerned resident of Hillsborough. When my husband and I bought our home 13 years ago, we knew that the existing Towers were there-we could live with it. However, after reading all the materials and attending the Public Participation Meeting on Aug. 12, we are really upset about the proposed project. We are very concerned about the increased health and safety risks. We want to sell our house in 6 years and this would be a huge negative impact on what we thought was going to be a fabulous investment. It's definitely not fair and it is not a good idea. The city of San Francisco needs to go across to the west side of 280 highway and put the power towers or lines over there in "their" property. Please hear us!!!

**63-1**

**63-2**

Respectfully,

Marilee Minkel

1880 Black Mountain Road

Hillsborough, CA 94010

Thankyou

8/28/03

## Responses to Comment Set 63 – Marilee Minkel

- 63-1 Please see General Response GR-1 regarding EMF, as well as General Response GR-2 regarding property values. The commenter's concerns about the Proposed Project are noted.
- 63-2 The Southern Segment of the Proposed Project is almost entirely on SFPUC Peninsula Watershed land. Please see Response to Comment PPH1-10 regarding routes west of I-280. Please refer to Section 2.3.2.1 for a discussion of the CEQA legal issues regarding line collocation. It is noted that a significant portion of the Partial Underground Alternative would be west of I-280 (north of Hayne Road). The commenter's opposition to the Proposed Project and preference for a route west of I-280 is noted.

## Comment Set 64

1565 Lexington Ave.  
San Mateo, CA 94402

August 28, 2003

Ellie Blanchard, CPUC  
c/o Open Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery St., Suite 735  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

We are residents of San Mateo Highlands.

We attended the Public Participatory Hearing at San Mateo City Hall on 8/12/03 (evening), and agree with most of the public input presented at that meeting. We agree that undergrounding the 230 kV line where it passes adjacent to San Mateo Highlands is very important (Alt. 1B). Even better, from our viewpoint, would be undergrounding both the 230 kV line and the present 60 kV line.

64-1

We would add two comments:

PG&E Co. and } 1) Since the beneficiaries of this project would primarily be the electricity users of San Francisco and North San Mateo Co., it only makes sense that those people should bear the cost of this transmission line upgrade, including the cost of restoring the environment of San Mateo County to condition as good as or better than present. Mid-San Mateo Co. residents should not have to bear any deterioration to their safety, property values, or quality of life.

64-2

2) In view of recent events - including planned construction of two gas-fired generating plants in San Francisco, the Northeast Blackout of 8/14/03, and the very recent study by the Electric Power Research Institute (Wall St. Journal 8/25/03) - one wonders

64-3

## Comment Set 64, cont.

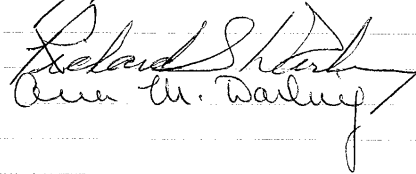
page 2

whether all of the long term requirements and implications of San Francisco / San Mateo Co. power generation and transmission have been fully considered. If not, perhaps this project is a bit premature.

64-3

Thank you for your consideration of our and our neighbors' concerns about this project.

Sincerely,

  
Ann M. Darling

Richard S. Darling  
Ann M. Darling  
1565 Lexington Ave.  
San Mateo, CA 94402

## **Responses to Comment Set 64 – Richard S. Darling and Ann M. Darling**

- 64-1 The commenters' support for undergrounding the line (PG&E Route Option 1B) is noted.
- 64-2 Please see Responses to Comments 40-4 and 40-5, as well as General Response GR-3, regarding the benefits and burdens of the Proposed Project. It is not accurate to say that the residents of San Mateo County would not benefit from the project. General Responses GR-1 and GR-2 discuss EMF and property values, respectively.
- 64-3 PG&E works with the CAISO and other stakeholders to develop load forecasts and design the overall transmission system to incorporate future demand projections and long-term planning. Please refer to Response to Comment 42-1 for a discussion of generation and need.

## Comment Set 65

*Brad Strutner  
1048 Wilmington Way  
Emerald Hills, CA 94062  
Phone (650) 364-8243  
bradstrutner@earthlink.net*

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October 5, 2003

Billie Blanchard, California Public Utilities Commission  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Dear Billie Blanchard:

I understand that the comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Report has already closed, but still decided to write you to express my opinion.

Please underground the new power lines under existing roads (Canada Road and Skyline Boulevard) through the southern segment of the project, and special attention must be given to avoiding any disturbance to the sensitive habitats at Edgewood. I support taking down the existing towers as part of the project, but leaving the concrete bases undisturbed.

Best wishes,



Brad Strutner

65-1

## Responses to Comment Set 65 – Brad Strutner

65-1 The commenter's preference for underground lines is noted. Sections D.2.1 and D.2.3 (Land Use), D.3.1 and D.3.3 (Visual Resources), D.4.1 and D.4.3 (Biological Resources), and D.9.1 and D.9.3 (Recreation) in the Draft EIR, discuss the ecological and/or scenic qualities of the environmental setting of the I-280 corridor and the SFPUC Watershed and how the Proposed Project would affect each individual issue area (both construction and operational phases) and mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts. The area in and around Edgewood Park is also discussed under each of the issue areas.

As illustrated in Draft EIR Figure D.4-4, the proposed overhead transmission route would require the construction of seven transmission towers within sensitive habitat areas in or adjacent to Edgewood Park and Pulgas Ridge Preserve (Towers 0/1-1/11). In comparison, the Partial Underground Alternative (Figure Ap.1-3a) would require one tower in the sensitive habitat area near the Jefferson Substation, while allowing removal of all existing towers in Edgewood Park and the Pulgas Ridge Preserve. Mitigation Measure B-1c addresses impacts associated with tower removal. PG&E Alternative 1B would also avoid Edgewood Park by underground the 230 kV lines in Cañada Road. The 60 kV lines would remain unchanged. Please see to Section 2.3.2.1 in Appendix 1 for a discussion regarding collocation of the 60 kV line with the 230 kV line.



## Comment Set 66

22 Vulcan Stairway  
San Francisco, CA 94123

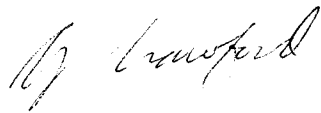
Billie Blanchard  
California Public Utilities Commission  
40 Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery St. Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94104-2906

Dear Ms. Blanchard,

I am writing to you regarding the Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Line Project. I am writing in support of undergrounding the lines which would be both environmentally friendlier and more secure. Please protect the watershed!

66-1

Thank you,



Gabrielle Crawford

## Responses to Comment Set 66 – Gabrielle Crawford

- 66-1 The commenter's support for undergrounding the transmission lines to protect the Watershed is noted.

