

## Comment Set 41

### Email from William E. Barker dated March 17, 2004

**From:** Bill Barker [billyb@cox.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2004 9:50 AM  
**To:** viejosystem@aspeneg.com  
**Cc:** Steve M.; Rick and Gail R.; Patti B.; Larry G.; Lance M.; John Paul Ledesma; Joe H.; dogmaster@saddlebackvalley.net; William C.; Trish K.; Frank U.  
**Subject:** Bury the lines

Gentleman,

I am writing this letter because of my concern and objection about the plans for Southern California Edison building additional overhead power lines within Mission Viejo Calif. 41-1

The Mission Viejo development was a pioneer for the concept of a planned community built to a theme that became called the "California Promise". A portion of this promise is that electrical utilities are built underground. The city of Mission Viejo has wide boulevards which are landscaped with tree medians. This can be done because our waste water is recycled into grey water providing nourishment to this extensive landscape and the boulevard side berm's are free from all overhead power lines. One of the benefits is these boulevards is the creation of vista views and an appreciation of nature creating citizen community pride and a tranquility that one perceives as a result of this excellent planning process.

Unfortunately the existing Edison overhead power lines along side Olympic boulevard is an exception of the community and is an eye sore for it predates the master planning of Mission Viejo. Interesting enough one does not find overhead power lines within our sister communities, these being Rancho Santa Margarita, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, and Aliso Viejo, for these cities were built at a later time line by Edison to the standards of the "California Promise" that Mission Viejo pioneered. 41-2

Today we find that Edison has a need to expand their power lines along Olympic Boulevard and unfortunately Edison wants to continue their obsolete scheme of overhead lines. 41-3

What is needed is for Edison to join the community of Mission Viejo and become a good citizen and not only bury these new lines but at the same time rework and bury the existing lines within the Mission Viejo city limits.

I do not believe anyone will argue that the accepted and committed standard today is to direct burial lines which is evident as one looks about our beautiful Saddleback Valley. One only finds above ground power lines in areas that were built before the mass migration of citizens into this beautiful valley.

I ask that Edison join our community and become a good citizen and Bury all of the Lines.

Thank you.

William E. Barker, Citizen of Mission Viejo.

**Response to Comment Set 41**  
**Email from William E. Barker dated March 17, 2004**

- 41-1 Thank you for sharing your concerns.
- 41-2 The commenter correctly notes that the existing transmission line predate the community of Mission Viejo. The development and incorporation of Mission Viejo occurred with the transmission lines in their current location. Please note SCE did not develop Mission Viejo or the surrounding communities. Unaffiliated land developers and home builders planned and built these communities after construction of the transmission lines.
- 41-3 Please see General Response GR-3 for information regarding the undergrounding of electrical transmission lines, as well as Appendix 8, which discusses various route options considered by the CPUC.