

## Email: West of Devers Upgrade Project EIR/EIS Team

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**From:** udo kierspe <concreteblock@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 19, 2015 10:12 AM  
**To:** West Of Devers Project  
**Subject:** Re: CPUC / BLM West of Devers

CPUC / BLM  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street  
Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

re: SCE West of Devers plans for Whitewater

Dear Sirs,

I just recently bought 3 half acre pieces of property in Whitewater, California and I have an issue with a utility expansion by Southern California Edison that I would like to bring to your attention.

SCE is currently planning to build a 165' metal power tower on vacant land east of my home for the "West of Devers Project" power upgrade and the cables from the structure will hang over my property.

I am a 71 year old veteran actor of over 200 films and long time resident of Palm Springs who was looking for a home that is close to town but still remote and inexpensive. While visiting a friend in Whitewater I found an ideal spot that had just come on the market and put in an offer. As I was purchasing this land I was not informed of the West of Devers expansion by the seller, the realtor or Southern California Edison. When my neighbor insisted that I ask the seller and realtor about these plans they had no idea what I was talking about. My realtor then called SCE and talked to Mr. Jeffrey Woodruff at (760) 445-1413 in the Planning Department who told me that "there will be no new power towers built in that area - only new power lines will be installed."

When I again tried to confirm the "No new towers" concept I learned from another SCE planner that the tower placement had not been finalized yet and won't be for a couple of months."

Through research I learned that there is a utility corridor easement on my property that was established in 1945 and a portion of this land was sold 13 years later as part of a development that included the lot that my home is on.

This easement was also reestablished in 1985. In studying the plans that SCE has for this project I find that they are attempting to take roughly one third of all 3 of my newly purchased properties for space to hang new high capacity power lines over with absolutely no plans to compensate me.

I asked an SCE representative if I could fence in my portion of the easement property or build on it and they replied that it would have to be within "SCE guidelines and permission would be required." I pay additional taxes on this property every six months due to extreme fire hazard in my immediate area this results in my having to maintain the easement land with brush clearance. Why was this property sold to me in the first place if the state can just give it to one of the wealthiest private corporations to have control over it while I supposedly "own", pay taxes and maintain it?

My neighbor David Doherty and I talked with SCE representatives about the fact that there is a large section of open property directly behind our homes that currently hosts the metal SCE towers - "Why do you have to move the poles closer to our homes and not leave them where they are?" They replied that the open area behind us is being saved for "Future Upgrades?" followed by the statement that - if we change the current plan to move away from the homes then they would have to get the permission of the people that live behind us. I explained that the open corridor behind us is separate from the homes and their expansion would not affect or be part of those residents property. From their reaction I think they were unaware of this fact as we pointed out where their easement borders are. Why can't they simply use the area that they referred to as future upgrade land, now?

I asked if they had any alternate plans other than building beside my home? The representatives said "No" they did not. In the online files of questions from the CPUC regarding the SCE plan they were asked if any alternate plans had been explored? SCE answered that they do have alternate routes for the towers and cables planned .

The California Public Utilities Commission asked a series of questions of SCE in the beginning stages of this project this being one- " c. Does SCE believe that all components of the proposed new towers (6N38, 6N39, 6N40, 6N41), including conductors at maximum sway, would remain within the current ROW boundaries? "

Part of SCE's reply "On the approximately 20 parcels that are at least partially within the ROW in this segment, there are currently 9 or 10 existing homes along the north side of Amethyst Drive which, given the proposed location of

these towers, may have new conductors swaying over their homes. The new towers are moving south by about 55 feet (centerline to centerline)."

I am confused by the phrase "may have new conductors swaying over their homes?" The powerlines will be hanging directly over my property and that of my neighbors to the west and east of me. Currently there are no "old" conductors over my home so how could there be new ones? The lines being moved are presently about 50' behind my property in a wide open corridor that is perfectly suited for their needs and why SCE feels entitled to seize someones property when they have more than sufficient expansion room already - I don't understand.

I attended the meeting with the Environmental Impact Research group recently and they presented the ideal alternate plan of leaving the cables and the towers in the corridor behind the homes not above them that I think you should adopt.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

udo kierspe  
55790 amethyst drive whitewater ca. 92282  
please confirm receiving of this email  
thank you