

PRESIDENTIAL SUBSTATION PROJECT

Scoping Report

Prepared for
California Public Utilities Commission

April 2009



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SCOPING REPORT

Presidential Substation Project Scoping Report

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview and a summary of the written and oral comments received by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) during the public scoping period for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that the CPUC is preparing for Southern California Edison's (SCE's) Presidential Substation Project (the Proposed Project).¹

CEQA Guidelines Section 15083 provides that a "Lead Agency may...consult directly with any person...it believes will be concerned with the environmental effects of the project." Scoping is the process of early consultation with the affected agencies and public prior to completion of a Draft EIR. Section 15083(a) states that scoping can be "helpful to agencies in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in depth in an EIR and in eliminating from detailed study issues found not to be important." Scoping is an effective way to bring together and consider the concerns of affected State, regional, and local agencies, the project proponent, and other interested persons (CEQA Guidelines Section 15083(b)).

Scoping is not conducted to resolve differences concerning the merits of a project or to anticipate the ultimate decision on a proposal. Rather, the purpose of scoping is to help ensure that a comprehensive and focused EIR will be prepared that provides a firm basis for the decision-making process.

This report is intended for use by the public to have access to and understand the comments received during the scoping period. It includes verbal and written public comments received during the scoping period (February 17, 2009 to March 19, 2009). The CPUC will use this report as a tool to ensure the preparation of a comprehensive and focused EIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, all public comments *will be considered*² in the EIR process.

¹ The California Public Utilities Commission is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the preparation of an EIR for the Proposed Project.

² Comments not within the scope of CEQA will not be addressed through the CEQA Process.

2. Description of the Project

Project Summary

The EIR will examine the environmental impacts associated with construction, operation and maintenance of the Presidential Substation Project, and identify and evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives to the Proposed Project. The objective of the Proposed Project is to build electrical facilities necessary to maintain safe and reliable electric service to customers, and serve the forecasted electrical demand in the Electrical Needs Area in the City of Thousand Oaks, the City of Simi Valley and unincorporated portions of Ventura County.

The Proposed Project includes the following elements:

- A new 66/16 kilovolt (kV) distribution substation on an approximate four acre site;
- Removal of approximately 79 distribution poles and 5 subtransmission poles located within existing rights-of-way, and replacement with approximately 83 subtransmission poles to accommodate a new 66 kV subtransmission line that would feed the proposed substation from two existing 66 kV subtransmission lines. Construction of the new subtransmission line would occur within approximately 3.5 miles of existing right-of-way;
- Four new underground 16 kV distribution getaways; and
- Facilities to connect the substation to SCE's existing telecommunications system.

Project Location

The Proposed Project is located in the City of Thousand Oaks and unincorporated portions of Ventura County. The substation site would be located in the City of Thousand Oaks, and the subtransmission source lines would be located in both unincorporated Ventura County and the City of Thousand Oaks. The Proposed Project is generally located near agricultural lands, open space, and residential areas.

3. Opportunities for Public Comment

Notification

On Friday, February 17, 2009, the CPUC published and distributed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to advise interested local, regional, and state agencies, and the interested public, that an EIR would be prepared for the Proposed Project. The NOP solicited both written and verbal comments on the EIR's scope during a 30-day comment period and provided information on a forthcoming public scoping meeting. Additionally, the NOP presented the background, purpose, description, and location of the Proposed Project, potential issues to be addressed in the EIR, and the contact name for additional information regarding the project.

In addition to the NOP, the CPUC notified the public about the public scoping meeting through multiple newspaper legal advertisements and the project website. The NOP, newspaper legal advertisements, and the project website notification are presented in Appendices A, B, and C respectively. Notifications provided basic project information, the date, time, and location of the scoping meeting, and a brief explanation of the public scoping process.

The CPUC published legal advertisements in the Ventura Star, Thousand Oaks Star, Simi Valley Star, Oxnard Star, Moorpark Star and Camarillo Star on February 17, 2009 and February 22, 2009. Additionally, an electronic copy of the NOP was posted on the CPUC's website at: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/esa/presidentialsubstation/index.html>.

The public was informed that they could submit written comments on the scope, content, and format of the environmental document by mail, facsimile, or email to the CPUC. Comments received after the formal comment period ended are also included in this scoping report.

Public Scoping Meeting

The CPUC conducted one scoping meeting. The meeting was held Tuesday, March 3, 2009, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Park Oak Elementary School, located at 1335 Calle Bouganvilla, Thousand Oaks, California. Approximately 24³ members of the public were in attendance at the scoping meeting, as well as two identified agency representatives. Juralynne Mosley of the CPUC, and Jennifer Johnson, Michael Manka and Christa Hudson of Environmental Science Associates (ESA) were also in attendance. Sign-in sheets from the scoping meeting are provided in Appendix D. Meeting attendees were asked to sign in and were provided with materials including presentation slides, a comment card, and a speaker card. Copies of the NOP were available upon request.

Two presentations (Appendix E) were given which included an overview of the environmental review process, the regional context, project background, project objectives, project description, project alternatives, and role of the public comments. Following the two presentations, public comments were taken and documented by a court reporter (Appendix F). All attendees were informed that they could also submit written comments up until the close of the scoping period at 5:00 p.m. on March 19, 2009.

³ The public attendance total is based on the number of individuals who signed the attendance sheet at the Scoping Meeting.

4. Summary of Scoping Comments

During the public scoping meeting held on March 3, 2009, participants commented on the Proposed Project. Written comments were also collected throughout the public comment period (Appendix G). Thirty-nine written letters were received during and after the scoping period. Appendix F presents transcripts of the oral comments received, and Appendix G contains copies of the submitted written comments.

Commenting Parties

The following individuals and parties submitted comments on the scope of the EIR. These comments are organized by date of receipt; comments received after the formal comment period are also included in this Scoping Report.

**TABLE 1
PARTIES SUBMITTING COMMENTS DURING
THE PRESIDENTIAL SUBSTATION PROJECT EIR SCOPING PROCESS**

Name	Organization	Date/Received Date
Written Comments		
Edmund J. Pert	California Department of Fish and Game	January 22, 2009
Alan Brody	Sunset Hills Homeowners Association, President	February 18, 2009
Don Hauser	Individual	February 23, 2009
Katy Schanez	Native American Heritage Commission	February 24, 2009
Gaston Monast	Individual	March 3, 2009
James and Julie Eaton	Individuals	March 6, 2009
Peter Lyons	City of Simi Valley, Director of Environmental Services	March 9, 2009
Jim Assalley	Individual, West Oak Settlement,	March 10, 2009
Beth S. Kuttler, Esq.	Reich Radcliffe & Kuttler, LLP	March 13, 2009
Gary Cramer and Marjorie Herring	Individuals	March 16, 2009
David A Bobardt	City of Moorpark, Planning Director	March 17, 2009
Lily Wu	Individual, Member of Deer Creek Community	March 17, 2009
F. Christopher Hansing	Individual	March 17, 2009
Alicia Camarillo	Rancho Madera HOA	March 17, 2009
David A. Bobardt	City of Moorpark, Planning Director	March 18, 2009
Mercedes Todesco and the Todesco Family	Individuals	March 18, 2009
Lehua Custer	Individual	March 18, 2009
Jennifer Crandall	Individual	March 18, 2009
Martin A. Josephson, M.D.	Individual	March 19, 2009
Casey L. Austin, Kim Rodriguez, Nazir Lalani, Alicia Stratton, Bruce Smith, and Robin Jester	County of Ventura (Resource Management Agency, Department of Public Work and Transportation, Air Pollution Control District, Planning Division, Watershed Protection District)	March 19, 2009
Dieter Wolf	Individual	March 19, 2009
Jonathan O'Riordan	Individual	March 19, 2009
Paul E. Morin, M.D.	Individual	March 19, 2009

TABLE 1 (Continued)
PARTIES SUBMITTING COMMENTS DURING
THE PRESIDENTIAL SUBSTATION PROJECT EIR SCOPING PROCESS

Name	Organization	Date/Received Date
Written Comments (cont.)		
Bogie Edwards	Individual	March 19, 2009
Mark and Deborah Cassar	Individuals	March 19, 2009
Alicia Camarillo	Rancho Madera Homeowners Association	March 19, 2009
John Tanner	Individual	March 19, 2009
Craig Underwood	Underwood Family Farms	March 19, 2009
Gaston Monast	Individual	March 19, 2009
Jonathan Evens	Center for Biological Diversity	March 19, 2009
Greg Smith	City of Thousand Oaks, Senior Planner	March 19, 2009
Teresa Chu	Individual	March 19, 2009
Jay and Ingrid Brewer	Individuals	March 19, 2009
Jay and Sharon Fleagane	Individuals	March 19, 2009
Chuck Cronin	Individual	March 19, 2009
Woody Smeck	Department of the Interior (National Park Service/Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area)	March 19, 2009
Martin A. Josephson, M.D. and Chureeporn Josephson	Individuals	March 23, 2009
Oral Comments		
Jim Assalley	Individual	March 3, 2009
Miranda Assalley	Individual	March 3, 2009
Jennifer Crandall	Individual	March 3, 2009
Chuck Cronin	Individual	March 3, 2009
William Gantzek	Rancho Madera Homeowners Association	March 3, 2009
Chris Hansing	Individual	March 3, 2009
Gaston Monast	Individual	March 3, 2009
Greg Smith	City of Thousand Oaks, Senior Planner	March 3, 2009
Mercedes Todesco	Individual	March 3, 2009
Mark Towne	City of Thousand Oaks, Deputy Director of Community Development	March 3, 2009
Craig Underwood	Individual	March 3, 2009
Josh Valdez	Individual	March 3, 2009
Lily Wu	Individual	March 3, 2009
Jayne Zeolla	Deer Creek Community Association	March 3, 2009

Comments Received During the Scoping Process

The following discussion summarizes both the oral and written comments received during the public scoping period. For more detailed information, please see Appendix F, which contains the March 3, 2009 Scoping Meeting transcript, and Appendix G, which contains written comments submitted during and after the scoping period.

Specific comments are categorized by topical areas to enable easier review of the comments.

Issues to Be Considered under CEQA

Project Description

- The exact location of each power tower, including the full size of the base, the trees affected by the construction and the exact proximity to each residence should be developed. (Todesco)
- The City is requesting that the EIR contain the substation site plan and other related exhibits including: 1) a site plan of the proposed substation with driveway, acceleration and deceleration lanes on Olsen Road, 2) elevations depicting various substation components and their relationships to proposed perimeter walls and adjacent graded slopes, 3) a grading plan depicting daylight cuts and fills, manufactured slope heights and manufactured slope gradients, 4) a topographic map of the substations site depicting natural hillside terrain exceeding 25 percent gradient that is proposed to be graded, and 5) a delineation of any brush clearance around the facility that would be required for wildfire management purposes. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- The EIR should clarify the actual width and height of the proposed tubular steel poles at all locations along the subtransmission route. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- The Center for Biological Diversity requests a more complete project description that also includes the staging of construction equipment along the power line route, the physical foot printed required to anchor new, taller power line poles, the construction and maintenance areas for the project, the area of fuel modification that would be employed for wildfire protection or other project needs, and any other construction related impacts to open spaces. (Evans, Center for Biological Diversity)
- SCE needs to specifically disclose the exact location of the proposed towers because it is impossible to replace the existing poles at the exact same spot. The towers will be built first and the poles then removed. (Hansing)
- Commenter holds that the PEA height of the poles is inaccurate. (Cronin)
- A California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit must be obtained if the project has the potential to result in “take” of species of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the project. CESA Permits are issued to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore State-listed threatened or endangered species and their habitats. Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to the Proposed Project and mitigation measure may be required in order to obtain a CESA Permit. (Pert, California Department of Fish and Game)

Aesthetics

- This neighborhood requested a sound wall on State Highway 23 immediately east of our community. It was declined due to the fact that this area is a “scenic corridor.” A sound wall is eight to 12 feet high. These towers will be 70 to 100 feet and will run over the freeway at the same exact location. This obviously will not be consistent with keeping this area a “scenic corridor.” (J. Assalley)
- Commenter is concerned that the current wooden poles, which are located on slopes, will require a large amount excavation in order to install the new huge steel poles which will make the area look industrial. (Monast)
- Commenter states that the poles will not fit into the community, the existing trees, but will stand out like a sore thumb. Commenter provides photos of the trees he feels would have to be removed. (Tanner)
- Commenter states that the project will definitely affect the environment and the aesthetics of the area with the destruction of trees and landscaping. Commenter has been told by SCE that the entire flora within 10 feet of the base of each pole will be cleared. This will destroy the rural look, feel, character and aspect of the scenic corridor. (Monast)
- The EIR should clarify the actual width and height of the proposed tubular steel poles at all locations along the subtransmission route, as this could have a significant bearing on the visual impact of the poles. The EIR should also include accurate photo-simulation of these poles and the subtransmission lines where they are proposed to cross Olsen Road and State Route 23 Freeway. The City also requests that similar photo-simulation be prepared for Alternative 1 from Madera Road to Esperance Drive. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- COSCA has land on 1919 Maya Pradera that will be directly adjacent to the transmission line towers. The homeowners in the area just received letters from COSCA cautioning us as neighbors to be careful of any and all encroachments to this land. They state “This land has been preserved for its important scenic, habitat and recreational values, and is an important part of the quality of life we all enjoy in the Conejo Valley.” These towers certainly do not seem consistent with COSCA’s vision. (J. Assalley)
- Commenter states that they purchased their five acre lot because it had a beautiful view of the county. This was the selling point of this lot to the commenter. Commenter states that these poles would diminish this view. (Eaton)
- The substation as proposed would be located at a visible location on Olsen Road, a highly traveled roadway and a major gateway to Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and the Ronald Reagan Library. While SCE states that the facility will be low profile, it will be visible to a high volume of motorists as well as adjacent properties. In addition, approximately one-quarter mile of subtransmission lines with 65’ to 85’ high poles would parallel and cross Olsen Road, detracting from the natural open space beauty of the area. (Lyons, City of Simi Valley)
- SCE’s photo simulations are misleading and fail to acknowledge the homes over which many of the subtransmission line poles will abut. These simulations should be redone to show the visual impact on these homes and the general community. The steel towers that

SCE wants to replace the wooden poles with, does not have a two foot base, but rather a four foot steel base. (Hansing)

- Commenter holds that the project is aesthetically unappealing, especially from the view in Toscana. (Morin)
- The EIR should evaluate the potential visual impact of the proposed electrical facilities from Tierra Rejada Road and SR-23 which are identified by the Ventura County General Plan as “eligible” County Scenic Highways. (Smith, County of Ventura Planning Division)
- SCE should provide true simulations showing the power towers and their proximity to the homes on the south side of Read Road and the 100 foot towers over the State Highway 23. The perspective of the simulations should be taken from Read Road, the Regan Library and the homes from Maya Pradera. (Todesco)
- Commenter holds the project will have a significant effect on the aesthetics of the area. Commenter writes that the communities of Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley and Moorpark have expended a lot of energy creating a green belt area, an area that maintains its rural flavor where the residents of these communities are able to experience the feeling of open space. (Herring)
- The new transmission lines through the Tierra Rejada Valley would be visible to residents in the Serenata neighborhood and to travelers along Tierra Rejada Road in Moorpark. The City has recently made a substantial investment in enhanced landscaping along the median of Tierra Rejada Road and at the SR-23/Tierra Rejada Road interchange to make this road more scenic. Although the new steel poles would be replacing existing wooden poles, they would be larger in diameter, taller in height and more visible due to the higher reflectivity of steel over wood, making the new poles a more dominant feature of the landscape. The impact needs to be analyzed and mitigation needs to be identified in the Draft EIR. (Bobardt, City of Moorpark)
- These towers will be an eyesore for this rural road, especially since the current poles are hidden behind the trees and the commenter can’t see them when looking out their front porch. The trees will most likely be removed. (Hansing)
- If SCE is allowed to proceed with construction of steel overhead transmission lines on Read Road, the character of one of the most beautiful areas of Thousand Oaks will be forever changed. (Josephson)
- The exact location of the substation was not clear from the exhibits on the project website. The City is requesting a visual analysis to identify the areas from which the substation would be visible. Appropriate screening and landscaping should be considered as mitigation to minimize visual impacts. (Bobardt, City of Moorpark)
- The above ground transmission lines to the substation would be a hideous eyesore. It would destroy the natural scenic view that makes the neighborhood so beautiful and desirable. (Todesco)
- Commenter holds that the project would destroy the scenic drive along Read Road and other areas. (Chu)

- Commenter holds that the project would destroy the scenic corridor established in the Thousand Oaks General Plan. (Cronin)
- Commenter is concerned with the height of the proposed poles. Commenter states that the total tower height is 110 feet minimum, which changes the height of the towers due the restrictions on drop between towers of five feet. Therefore, the commenter concludes that most towers are between 80 to 110 feet along Read Road. (Cronin)
- Commenter states that if the project is implemented the scenic and safe rural area will never be the same. The poles will be going in and drastically impacting the small narrow road. Some of these lines will be going almost overtop of peoples homes. The impact on this area will be devastating. (Fleagane)
- Read Road is a narrow two lane country road with a number of residential structures. It is a scenic corridor, part of the Tierra Rejada greenbelt region. The landscape and vistas will be forever altered if steel poles are placed along Read Road. (Josephson)
- Commenter believes that SCE's visual simulations were misleading. The photo simulations fail to acknowledge the homes over which many of the subtransmission lines pole will abut. Commenter states that the 100 foot tall transmission poles that will cross the freeway will be an awful eyesore in the beautiful community. The simulations should be redone to show the visual impact on these homes and the general community. (Crandall, Cassar)
- Commenter holds that the project will affect the scenic corridor over State Highway 23 and through the valley. (Cassar, Cronin)
- Commenter wants visual simulations even if they are hand drawn. Commenter provides pictures and other attachments to his letter. (Cronin)
- Commenter states that he believes that there are "Tract" agreements for Sunset Valley Road and Reed Road that have declared these roads as scenic and rural routes. Commenter states that the poles will create an "eyesore" to the rural area and roads. (Cassar)
- The vertical photos of the proposed pole route are outdated and do not show all of the homes affected by these monstrous poles. Commenter states that the poles will not fit into the community, the existing trees, but will stand out like a sore thumb. (Tanner)
- Commenter holds that SCE's visual simulations were not accurate or representative. (Monast)
- Commenter writes that following the development of the Enclave residential area on Read Road, the City of Thousand Oaks wanted to keep that area as pristine and rural as possible. The Route 23 area at the entrance to the City has been designated a scenic corridor by the City of Thousand Oaks. The installation of these transmission steel poles would be a visual blight and an eye sore and would destroy the scenic beauty of the area. (Monast)
- The proposed transmission towers for the Presidential Substation Project would completely alter the environment on a permanent level and cause major disruption while being constructed. Commenter objects to the building of the towers and holds that they are unsafe and an eye sore to the community. Commenter states that the colossal size of the towers will destroy the rural beauty of the area. (Brewer)

- Commenter states that the size of the transmission towers will obstruct the panoramic view and take away from the ambiance of the area. (Brewer)
- Commenter holds that the project would destroy the bucolic views of a peaceful natural space. Commenter believes that the proposed power lines would be unsightly like the urban landscape of bill boards and smokes stack. (Arduini)
- It should be noted that both State Highway 23 and Olsen Road are City-designated scenic highways and would be significantly impacted by the project. The City would like the proposed substation and subtransmission poles and their potential visual impact to the community analyzed in the EIR. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- The City states that the photo-simulations provided appear to be inaccurate. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks).
- The City of Simi Valley requests that the EIR consider the following changes to the project:
 - Design the substation to screen it from the adjacent roadway and properties. Screening methods should include extensive landscaping including large trees and a berm;
 - Underground the portion of the preferred project’s subtransmission lines that would parallel and cross Olsen Road; and
 - If either of the alternative subtransmission routes are adopted, SCE should underground all lines. (Lyons, City of Simi Valley)
- The towers will be unsightly, as shown by multiple representations of what the towers will look like. (J. Assalley)
- Regarding the undergrounding of the electric line and equipment: on the Southern California Edison web page under environment commitment, SCE addresses the CPUC Rule 20, policies and procedure for the undergrounding of electric lines and equipment. Under Rule 20 of the CPUC, undergrounding projects are financed by utility rate money, combined rate funds, local tax proceeds or private funds, depending on whether the Rule 20A, 20B or 20C provision of apply. Commenter’s understanding is that Rule 20A provision would apply in this situation. Rule 20A governs, “the overhead equipment that must be located within or pass through a civil recreational or scenic area.” Both the electrical lines and the substation would be located in a scenic area designated as such by the City of Thousand Oaks. Both Route 23 and Olson Road are entrances to the City of Thousand Oaks and are considered scenic areas. Easterly direction of Olsen Road approaching Simi Valley is also considered a scenic corridor by the City of Simi Valley. This should classify this project under Rule 20A of the CPUC. (Monast)
- The PEA is inaccurate with respect to the aesthetic impacts resulting from the project. Commenter will submit with his official comments a simulated, accurate picture of how the power lines would look on Read Road. (Valdez)
- Commenter has concerns regarding the impact of the power lines on the green belt area, which is the designation for the Tierra Rejada Valley. It is a pristine valley and the commenter would like to preserve the character that it currently has. (Underwood)

- The City has concerns about the scenic highway corridor, which is the Route 23 freeway. The project at the current time would propose to suspend 66kV lines above the freeway in a highly visible location. The information the City received in regard to the height of the towers necessary to suspend them above the freeway on the slope is concerning, and the City requests that detailed photo simulations be provided in the EIR to address these issues. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- The poles would have a devastating visual impact on the beautiful, farm-like setting of Read Road. The current wooden poles are the old fashioned kind they had to put up because it's an old country road. It is a beautiful tree-lined road, and the wooden poles right now are woven into the trees such that one doesn't really notice them. The project would remove the beauty of the road. (Crandall)
- Commenter has received different answers from different individuals at SCE regarding aesthetics. One engineer said the poles would be 15 feet higher than what is currently there, then later said they would be 35 feet higher. Current poles are approximately 35 feet and proposed poles are taller. Commenter believes that the steel pole towers will take away from the beauty of the area and that these poles belong on a major thoroughfare and not in her front yard. (Crandall)
- The project would have a negative impact on the aesthetics of the area. Read Road has a beautiful, farm-like setting, and the residents enjoy a country life. (Wu)
- Commenter provided simulations of a panoramic view of the proposed transmission line. The simulations in the PEA were taken from the only vantage point where SCE could take a picture and not show any homes along Read Road. The same thing is true of Sunset Valley Road. Commenter's simulations show a 'before' that consists of farm land. (Cronin)
- The pole heights in the simulation are completely false, SCE provides pictures that were deceptive in nature and only showed parts of the project area. The project may also disrupt the view from the Regan Library and Gravesite. (Cronin)
- Aesthetics are a big concern for the City of Thousand Oaks and the corridor in which the project is located. (Todesco)
- Commenter is concerned about the beauty of the area marred by huge power lines. Commenter moved to this location for the peace and beauty of the area. Commenter feels that this project should not be occurring so close to her home. (Custer)

Agricultural Resources

- Commenter states that their property is used to farm avocados. Commenter states that they rely heavily on their bee hives to provide their trees with the pollination needed to produce crops. It is her understanding based on information provided from the beekeeper, that bees carry an electrostatic charge that helps them distinguish the location of their hives. Interference from the electrical emanations from the proposed power transmission lines could cause the bees to fail to return to their hives. Commenter states that they are already experiencing a devastating drop in the bee population which is having a significant effect on farming in California. Commenter does not want an additional negative factor to the bees' habitat. Commenter writes that without the bees their crops will fail. (Herring)

- Commenter holds that the Proposed Project would negatively impact their ability to farm and that their crops (avocados) would not be able to be produced with the same quality or quantity. Commenter reports that they rely on Aspen Helicopters to provide crop dusting. The pilots fly their helicopters extremely low over the very tops of their trees. They handle the “thrip problem” (a devastating pest) by spraying a very fine, high grade oil over the trees. The helicopters come in very low because they want the rotor blades on the helicopter to create turbulence and expose the bottom side of the avocado tree leaves, where the thrips live and when the helicopters release the oil mix, it covers the bottom of the leaf and suffocates the thrips. Commenter spoke with the helicopter pilot, Rob, and he said the power lines would certainly affect the efficacy of the spraying he had to do. The pilot will not be able to come in as low and will have to avoid the perimeter of the property closest to the power lines. (Herring)
- The construction of this project would adversely affect one of the area’s agricultural resources. (Josephson)
- Commenter is concerned with impacts to the Underwood Farm, the use of Rick’s farm and potential runoff into fields. Commenter holds that the project will affect the scenic corridor through the agricultural area. (Cronin)
- Commenter’s property is under a Williamson Act Contract, and the Proposed Project is the complete opposite of everything Ventura County has fought hard against. (Cassar)
- The Tierra Rejada Valley is in a greenbelt and protected by SOAR. SOAR is a voter passed initiative that requires that there be change in land use within its boundaries without a vote of the people. Commenter provides a link regarding the law. Presently, the commenter is in negotiation with the Nature Conservancy to create an agricultural easement on 120 acres of his and the Breconiers’ property. Commenter writes that there would also be a wildlife corridor associated with it. He is concerned and does not want any project that would have a negative impact on his viability to remain in agriculture as an “agritourism” destination. (Underwood)

Air Quality

- The commenter’s mother lives with them and became ill during the grading and plowing on the west side of Sunset Valley Road by the Bordiers Nursery approximately two years ago. Her mother became ill with Valley Fever. Valley Fever is caused by soil disturbance which releases fungi into the air which can make its way into a person’s lungs. It causes high fever, cough, chest pain, chills, night sweats, swollen joints, skin rash and skin nodules. It is very serious and after a year her mother still tests positive and is in a weakened condition. Commenter writes that she fears that the 18 month time period estimated to complete this power line project and the digging of 77 thirty foot deep holes and the removal of many trees will cause even more soil disturbance, releasing even more fungi into the air, which very likely will have an effect on her health. The project would also have an effect on other residents of this valley. Commenter is looking for alternative living arrangements for her mother in case this project is approved. (Herring)
- Commenter is concerned with dirt pollution and traffic during the construction of the project. (Josephson)
- Commenter is very concerned about air quality. (Cassar)

- Construction would cause delays, confusion and a construction mess with dust affecting air quality for several months with the possibility of valley fever. (Monast)
- The Ventura County Air Pollution District staff recommends that the air quality section of the EIR be prepared in accordance with the *2003 Ventura County Air Quality Assessment Guidelines*. (Stratton, County of Ventura Air Pollution Control District)

Biological Resources

- Commenter is concerned that older mature trees will be required to be removed and that their replacement would be with young small trees. Commenter holds that this would be an impact to birds including the cooper hawks, red tail hawks and owls. (Crandall)
- Commenter is concerned with the destruction to vegetation and trees within a five to 10 feet diameter of the poles. (Monast)
- The California Wildlife Action Plan, a recent Department guidance document, identified the following stressors affecting wildlife and habitats within the project area: (1) growth and development, (2) water management conflicts and degradation of aquatic ecosystems, (3) invasive species, (4) altered fire regimes, and (5) recreational pressures. The Department looks forward to working with the CPUC and SCE to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife resources with a focus on these stressors. (Pert, California Department of Fish and Game)
- Commenter requests that new trees be planted to replace any that are removed or die from implementation of the project. Commenter would like mature trees used to replace the existing trees lost. (Fleagane)
- Commenter is concerned about impacts to three endangered species in the area. (Cronin)
- Commenter writes that the site of the towers is the site of a National Parks wildlife research project and is a wildlife corridor for both the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy and the Nature Conservancy. Neither of the parties were noticed on the PEA nor were their findings included in the resource sections of the PEA. The impact during the construction phase is considerable and will reverse the work that has been done to facilitate wildlife migration, including special wildlife gates, underpasses and fencing. (Cronin)
- The Proposed Project is located in an area that provides a role in habitat connectivity for wildlife between open space areas of the Santa Susana Mountains, Simi Hills, Santa Rosa Valley and Wildwood Park. The region serves as an important contributor of linkage habitat that helps connect Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area to outlying open spaces area in the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains. (Smeck, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy)
- The National Park Servicers has worked in cooperation with Caltrans to document extensive wildlife movement across State Highway 23, including below the highway in culverts and underpasses and across the surface of the road, often with fatal consequences. The EIR should acknowledge the important habitat connectivity value of the Tierra Rejada Valley and analyze impacts to wildlife movement that may result form the Proposed Project. The document should identify both the public investment made to protect the habitat connectivity in the area and analyze how the proposed substation may affect

wildlife movement and the efforts designed to protect the movement. (Smeck, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy)

- The Tierra Rejada Valley is characterized by important habitats for several rare and endangered species, notably including Lyon’s pentachaeta, coastal California gnatcatcher, and Riverside fairy shrimp. (Smeck, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy)
- There are two endangered plant species known to exist in the vicinity of SCE’s preferred Presidential Substation site alongside Olsen Road which may be adversely impacted. The City recommends the potential construction impacts to sensitive and or endangered plant species known to occur within the project area be analyzed. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- The City requests that the rare plant surveys be completed prior to the release of the EIR in order to make a proper impact determination. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- The EIR must consider direct and cumulative impacts to threatened, endangered and sensitive species and the potential movement from both project construction and project operation. The power line component of the project goes through critical habitat for Lyon’s pentachaeta, coastal California gnatcatcher, and Riverside fairy shrimp. Additionally nine special status plant species have the potential to occur in the project vicinity, which includes four listed plant species. The project also has the potential to impact several sensitive wildlife species, such as the borrowing owl, raptors, and the San Diego woodrat. (Evans, Center for Biological Diversity)
- The project disturbs a regionally important wildlife linkage that provides for wildlife movement through the Tierra Rejada Valley. The project is located within a wildlife corridor that connects habitats in the Santa Monica Mountains to the Sierra Madre Mountains as identified in the “South Coast Missing Linkage Project: A linkage design for the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Connection.” (Evans, Center for Biological Diversity)
- The EIR must analyze the impacts on the corridor due to blockage, construction, habitat fragmentation, edge effects, introduction of pets and non-native, invasive plants, as well as indirect effects of humans, such as traffic, lighting, and noise. The EIR should address both individual and intergenerational movement of species in the corridor and should cover multiple taxonomic groups, large and small mammals, birds and plants. (Evans, Center for Biological Diversity)
- As illustrated in the figures presented in the PEA, there are numerous sensitive biological resources within and adjacent to the Proposed Project site, and therefore it is recommended that a full EIR be prepared for the project to insure that all environmental impacts are reduced to below levels of significance. The Departments recommends the following to be included where applicable. Below is a summarized list of topic areas.
 - (1) A complete, recent assessment of flora and fauna within and adjacent to the project area, with particular emphasis upon identifying endangered, threatened, and locally unique species and sensitive habitats;
 - (2) A thorough discussion of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources, with specific measures to offset such impacts. This discussion should focus on maximizing avoidance and minimizing impacts; and

- (3) The Department opposes the elimination of watercourses (including concrete channels) and or the canalization of natural and manmade drainages or conversion to subsurface drains. All wetlands and watercourses, whether intermittent, ephemeral, or perennial, must be retained and provided with substantial setback which preserve the riparian and aquatic habitat values and maintain their value to on-site and off-site wildlife populations. The Department recommends a minimum natural buffer of 100 feet from the outside edge of the riparian zone on each side of drainage. (Pert, California Department of Fish and Game)
- Commenter is concerned that the timeframe for the release of the draft EIR would not give adequate time to review the rare and endangered plant species on the proposed substation site. The protocol periods for surveys of those plants extend into July, and it seems as though this tentative release of the EIR may be in conflict with the need to do an adequate survey for rare plants. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)

Climate Change

- Commenter states that the EIR must disclose and analyze the potential significant impacts of global warming and greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the EIR must include an inventory and analysis of the project's projected global warming pollution. The greenhouse gas inventory for a project must include a complete analysis of all the project's substantial sources of greenhouse gas emissions, from building materials and construction emissions to operational energy use, and vehicle trips. The EIR must determine the cumulative significance of the project's greenhouse gas pollution on global warming impacts. (Evans, Center for Biological Diversity)
- The EIR should consider mitigation measures that will ensure the energy is used both efficiently and conservatively in order to avoid the wasteful spending that the project construction contemplates. The EIR should consider the following mitigation measures:
 - Utilize recycled, low-carbon and otherwise climate-friendly building materials such as salvaged and recycled-content materials for building, hard surfaces, and non-plant landscaping materials;
 - Minimize, reuse, and recycle construction related waste;
 - Minimize grading, earth-moving and other energy-intensive construction practices;
 - Landscape to preserve natural vegetation and maintain watershed integrity; and
 - Utilize alternative fuels in construction equipment and require construction equipment to utilize the best available technologies to reduce emissions. (Evans, Center for Biological Diversity)
- Commenter states that after mitigation measures have been implemented to reduce emissions, those emissions that cannot be eliminated may be mitigated through carbon offsets. (Evans, Center for Biological Diversity)

Cultural Resources⁴

- There have been Native American findings on the COSCA land of historical significance. The Native American community is joining in the opposition to the project. (J. Assalley)
- There are Native lands along this route. Commenter questions if the legal department contacted the Native Americans affiliated with this land. (Hansing)
- Commenter holds that there are Native lands along this route and in the path of the staging area and the project may disrupt the finds. (Cronin)
- Commenter states that SCE fails to address the Native American cultural resources and artifacts that may exist in the direct path of the Proposed Project. (Hansing)
- Commenter states that the project needs to get input from COSCA as well as from the Native Americans. (Hansing, Monast)
- To comply with CEQA, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) recommends the following: (1) contact the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center for a record search, (2) if an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final state is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey, (3) contact the NAHC for a Sacred Land File Check and a list of appropriate Native American Contacts, and (4) lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence. Commenter attached a list of contacts. (Sanchez, Native American Heritage Commission)
- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources. In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities. Lead Agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with a culturally affiliated Native American. Additionally, Lead Agencies should include the provision for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan and mandate the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery. (Sanchez, Native American Heritage Commission)
- Commenter states that the proposed SCE subtransmission route is located adjacent to two lots of record that are deed-restricted for open space purposes, one of which contains a significant archeological site that has been permanently preserved by the City. A previous Phase II subsurface testing of this site occurred. As a result, potential project construction impacts to these cultural resources are considered adverse and unavoidable. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks).
- An archeological site has been permanently preserved by the City. The Native American Monitor who participated the in Phase II testing of the cultural site has expressed concerned about the Proposed Project's impact to these resources and therefore recommends avoidance, if at all possible. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)

⁴ Some comments made under the Cultural Resources section were edited to protect sensitive cultural resource information.

- There are very sensitive archeological resources that have been preserved within the project area. There is extensive documentation on the location of these resources. The City feels that there will be some significant effects. The City has been in contact with the Native American monitor who worked on the cultural site. That person's name is Mr. Andulo. Mr. Andulo indicated concern over the possible direct impacts of the Proposed Project, and has personally expressed the opinion that he would prefer they have those impacts avoided if at all possible. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)

Geology and Soils

- Commenter states that there are earthquakes in the area which present a danger (a potential catastrophe), should these lines and poles fall. The outcome would be deadly. (Cassar)
- Commenter is concerned that the current wooden poles are located on slopes that will require a large amount excavation in order to install the new huge steel poles. (Monast)

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- Commenter is concerned about an increase in fire hazards/ damages in his neighborhood. (O'Riordan)
- Commenter is also concerned with emergency access and evacuations routes in the event of a wildfire. (Brewer)
- Commenter holds that there are safety hazards posed from limited emergency access, increased risk of fires, and the traffic hazards imposed by the placing poles along a narrow county road. (Crandall)
- Commenter is concerned about fire safety as there is only one means of ingress and egress along the road which provides access to residential driveways. Commenter believes that construction will be a hazard. (Crandall, Cronin)
- Commenter provides additional comments in his March 10, 2009 letter. Commenter understands that hazards are considered and analyzed for CEQA compliance in the EIR. Commenter provides examples of hazards such as construction hazards and road safety hazards. (J. Assalley)
- SCE fails to address within the PEA the safety hazards imposed by limited emergency access, increased risk of fires, and the traffic hazards imposed by placing poles along a narrow road. (Hansing, Monast)
- Commenter is very concerned with fire and health hazards. Commenter holds that above ground transmission lines are more susceptible to environmental forces, such as high winds and earthquakes. Such threats as downed power lines are a danger to public safety and electric sparks from downed lines would increase the risk of fire. Also, Read Road backs up to open space with natural brush, which could easily catch fire and threaten surrounding neighborhood communities leading to massive property loss and or worse—loss of human life. (Todesco)
- An existing electric pole abuts against commenter's narrow driveway. The proposed transmission lines have a much wider base. Commenter is concerned about safety and

opposes such a structure so close to their driveway. Commenter would also oppose the placement of any such structure in front of their home. (Todesco)

- Commenter states that the new steel tower lines will extend over into her property and believes this will pose a danger. (Crandall)
- Commenter objects to the building of the towers and holds that they are unsafe. (Brewer)

Hydrology and Water Quality

- Commenter holds that the project could affect hydrology and water quality. Commenter states that the foundations are proposed to go as deep as 25 feet and it would affect the water table, affecting animals, plants and people. (Cassar)
- Commenter is concerned that the water table will be affected, affecting animals, plants and people. (Cronin)
- Commenter is concerned with impact to the Underwood Farm, the use of Rick's farm and potential runoff into fields. (Cronin)
- The Watershed Protection District has regulatory jurisdiction over channels located in the Proposed Project area and also has right-of-way within the Proposed Project site. The County would like any existing run off volume and velocity analyzed, and if the existing facilities receiving runoff have sufficient capacity to convey any additional increase. (Jester, County of Ventura Water Shed Protection District)
- The Watershed Protection District should be contacted to determine if the route affects channels or Watershed Protection District rights-of-way, which would require a permit from the District. (Jester, County of Ventura Water Shed Protection District)

Land Use and Planning

- Commenter attached a letter dated January 7, 2009 from the Conejo Open Space Conservancy Agency (COSCA) regarding the land that is adjacent to commenter's property. The attached letter states that the land has been preserved for its important scenic, habitat and recreational value and that it is an important part of the quality of life for the Conejo Valley. (Crandall)
- Commenter believes that placing the transmission towers on the two main roads bringing visitors to the area is totally against the idea of the green belt area. (Herring)
- Property in general area has been designated as open space area by SOAR to keep rural agriculture in Ventura County. (Cassar)
- Input should be solicited from COSCA on the impact to the open space and the 4.5 acres of land they control at 1919 Maya Pradera. The power towers are on the land adjacent to the property line. (Todesco)
- Commenter believes that Read Road should remain rural per the Tract agreement with no further development. (Cronin)

- The City's position is that the EIR should evaluate the degree the Proposed Project does or does not comply with the adopted policies of the City of Thousand Oaks General Plan and its related elements. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- Commenter has concerns regarding the impact of power lines on the green belt area, which is the designation for the Tierra Rejada Valley. (Underwood)

Mineral Resources

- Commenter holds that the project could affect mineral resources, with foundation going as deep as 25 feet, it would affect the water table, affecting animals, plants and people. (Cassar)

Noise

- Commenter states that the project would impact the ability to place a sound wall. (Cronin)
- Commenter is concerned about the safety of the horses and riders during construction. He is scared because the loud noise could scare the horse and cause an injury to the horse, the rider or even a death. Commenter is concerned about his family and their 100 plus horses given the proximity of the transmission poles. (Cassar)
- Commenter is concerned about noise during the construction of the project. Commenter believes that construction equipment, truck and labor crews will certainly make a difficult morning drive significantly more dangerous. (Josephson)
- Commenter is concerned that the new power poles will produce a high pitch "hissing" sound given that the proposed poles are larger than the current ones and will carry a higher voltage. (Crandall, Brewer, Cronin)
- Commenter states that the project will create a high pitch noise in the common moisture and foggy conditions and ultimately affect the values of his property. (Cassar)
- Commenter is very concerned about noise. Commenter has visited similar transmission lines such as the proposed ones and there is a constant buzzing that intensifies with moisture. The noise pollution would change the way of life for the valley. (Cassar)
- Commenter is concerned about the irritating buzzing noise the towers will make to individuals enjoying recreation in the area. (Brewer)
- Commenter is concerned about having huge power lines "humming" overhead. (Herring)

Population and Housing

- Commenter believes that the power poles will directly affect the future of housing and population in the entire community; housing will need to be abandoned in some areas and other areas will not build new homes. (Cassar, Cronin)
- For the base of the proposed replacement poles to have the same easement as the current towers they are trying to connect, SCE would have to remove the commenter's house which is 100 feet from these lines. (Hansing)

Public Services

- Commenter holds that SCE needs a set back of 100 feet given the home schooled student living along the proposed route. (Cronin)
- Commenter states that he has researched the SCE regulation regarding setback of lines from home schooled children. Commenter states that there is a high school student being home schooled on “our” property within SCE setback of 100 feet (commenter provides Moorpark High School documents attached to his comment letter indicating the status of the student in question). (Cassar)
- Commenter believes that the project is a definite hazard for the fire department and public services if an accident were to happen. (Monast)
- Commenter is also concerned with emergency access and evacuations routes in the event of a wildfire. (Brewer)

Recreation

- The proposed power lines would run over the Underwood Farms, which are frequented throughout the year by grade school children. It is also the site of Civil War reenactments held by the Moorpark Rotary Club. The event is a one week long event in which over 10,000 people attend during this period. The event is a family event with many young children in attendance. (Cassar)
- Commenter’s neighbors at the Underwood Farms have children and adults there everyday of the week with U-Pick vegetables, a Farmers Market and Play area for young children. (Cassar)
- Commenter states that the steel poles lines would negatively impact his recreation friendly neighborhood. (Josephson)
- Commenter is concerned with the bike path and access to recreational areas including the nearby farms. (Cronin)
- Commenter expresses concern over the size and placement of the new transmission pole foundation. Commenter is concerned that the six foot wide pole foundation would obstruct the bike path easement and create would an unsafe road condition along Read Road. (Chu)
- Read Road and Sunset Valley Road are used by equestrians to connect to public trails that travel in front of the Enclave. Commenter feels that the project would take away from the beauty, safety and enjoyment of her family and her animals. (Crandall)
- Sunset Valley Road is a Class 3 Bike Route which runs directly under the proposed poles and lines. The valley is also considered a premier recreation area for thousands of people in the communities for Thousand Oaks, Moorpark, Simi Valley and the surrounding areas. (Cassar)
- Commenter is concerned about the recreational impact during project construction and operation. Read Road is the County and the City’s bikeway that provides the only access between Tierra Rejada Road, Moorpark Road and Olson Road. (Cronin)

- Commenter is very concerned about the children and families that visit the Underwood Family Farms. Commenter states that approximately 40,000 children come on scheduled tours and many more come during the week and weekend. During the month of October the farm hosts about 60,000 or more that come to be entertained, learn and pick pumpkins. Commenter includes many photos of the children, buses and families that attend the farm. (Underwood)
- Commenter believes that the project falls under Rule 20A; the rule prohibits the overland of high transmission wires by a utility company. Commenter discusses the methods and procedure for funding under this rule. Rule 20A governs the overhead equipment that is located within or passes through a civic recreational or scenic area. Commenter believes that the project qualifies under Rule 20A given the City of Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley scenic designations in the area. He also holds that Sunset Valley Road constitutes a recreation area because of all the activities associated with the Underwood Farm complex. Over 50,000 school children visit the farm annually plus the regular family oriented activities during the year which bring in thousands of families to visit and spend the day at the farm. (Monast)
- Read Road is also classified as a Class 3 bicycle road and is one of only two roads that can be used by bicyclists between the cities of Moorpark and Thousand Oaks. (Monast)
- The Tierra Rejada Valley is a likely route for a recreational trail connection to parklands. The proposal informally referred to as the “Ronald Reagan Trail and Wildlife Corridor” has the potential to provide a popular recreational trail route through the scenic resources that now exits across the Tierra Rejada Valley. Potential impacts should be analyzed. (Smeck, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy)

Transportation and Traffic

- Commenter holds that there are safety hazards posed from limited emergency access, increased risk of fires, and the traffic hazards imposed by the placing poles along a narrow county road. (Crandall)
- Read Road is a two lane road (one lane in each direction). Commenter has seen cars going in excess of 70 miles an hour down this road. If a car hit one of the proposed poles carrying that much kilovolts it could have a deadly result for anyone nearby. (Eaton)
- Commenter is concerned with access to his farm from the construction of the project, especially during their busy season. He holds that Sunset Valley Road is not wide and will be heavily compromised. The shoulder of the road is often used by his customers for supplemental parking. (Underwood)
- Read Road from Sunset Valley to the entrance of the Enclave Community is dangerously narrow already. To add these poles with their 10 foot base seems impossible. At present there are near misses each day between oncoming traffic specifically at the small hill. One simply cannot see oncoming traffic and people swerve and could hit these poles. Commenter can't imagine what would happen if these lines came down on the houses right underneath. (J. Assalley)

- Commenter states and there is a brief DVD⁵ video that they filmed while walking and driving through some of the affected areas. Commenter states that the DVD shows and explains how narrow Read Road is, and how close the poles will be on Sunset Valley Road especially to the Underwood Family Farms (tens of thousands of school children visit this farm each year and are dangerously close to the lines on Sunset Valley Road). (J. Assalley)
- The four-foot bases of the proposed towers are three to four times the width of the telephone poles along Read Road. Given that Reed Road is very narrow and the power towers are so large, the safety impact for cars traveling on Read Road should be determined. Please note that Read Road is the only means of ingress and egress for 30 plus households. Read Road barely accepts two cars in opposite directions and the power tower will add a considerably safety hazard. (Todesco)
- The current poles, with the less than two foot base is eight feet from the white edge line along the narrow road. The four foot base would pose a serious impediment to their narrow road and; therefore, the towers would be a serious road hazard to traffic. These towers belong alongside a highway not a residential road placed in front of residences' front doors. (Hansing)
- Commenter is concerned with the impact to his farm the construction of the project along Sunset Valley Road, especially during their busy season. Sunset Valley Road is not a wide road and will be heavily compromised. The shoulder of the road is often used by customer for supplemental parking. The farm is a valuable community asset and the commenter is concerned that construction is going to have a tremendous impact to the farm. (Underwood)
- Commenter is concerned with traffic during the construction of the Proposed Project. It is extremely dangerous trying to turn from Read Road onto Moorpark Road in the morning. This problem of left turn to Moorpark Road during peak traffic times was not appropriately planned for when the county re-routed Moorpark Road 10 years ago. Construction equipment, trucks and labor crews will certainly make a difficult morning drive significantly more dangerous. (Josephson)
- The installation of the proposed transmission lines will effect transportation and traffic; currently it is unsafe driving on this rural road with the smaller poles that are currently in place. It will be less safe during construction and after installation of the six foot wide foundation. The construction will cause the road to be reduced down to a one lane road significantly increasing the danger as well as causing increased traffic and congestion for the morning and afternoon commutes to work and schools. (Cassar)
- The construction of the foundation for these poles, which are to be 30 feet deep, and the installation of these poles will create a definite safety hazard. Read Road is a very narrow country road and the only ingress and egress for the commenter. (Monast)
- Commenter is concerned about the width of Read Road, the size of the transmission towers, safety hazards and traffic delays resulting from project implementation. Commenter also states that Read Road is a designated biking route and horse trail. Commenter is also concerned with emergency access and evacuations routes in the event of a wildfire. (Brewer)

⁵ The DVD was not attached with comment letter. ESA received a DVD that was blank and has attempted to acquire a new DVD with viewable content.

- Commenter feels that the road is very narrow and the only passable shoulder is on the south side, the proposed location of the towers. The current telephone poles are roughly 10 feet from the road edge and the six feet base will cut that distance to seven feet, too little space for a car to safely use the shoulder. (Cronin)
- Commenter is concerned about road safety during construction and after six foot wide foundations are in place. Additionally, there is a single exit for Read Road to anywhere and it could be reduced down to one lane for morning commutes to schools and work for 35 residents. (Cronin)
- Commenter says that there is a power pole at the end of her driveway. Increasing the pole's base size, as proposed by the project, would increase the already narrow driveway and narrow the street, creating a traversing issue and danger for residents coming through. (Todesco)
- Commenter states that project would inhibit the widening of Read Road. Commenter also holds that the project would change the nature of State Route 23 and Read Road in the City of Thousand Oaks General Plan. (Cronin)

Utilities and Service Systems

- Commenter states that there is a major gas supply line buried next to the present poles on Read Road. Commenter is concerned about the 30 foot depth of the poles needed to install the new poles given the gas line. Commenter questions what will happen to the gas line and if it will have to be moved. (Monast)
- Commenter is concerned that this project will complicate if not preclude the ability to place sewer lines along Read Road at some later time. Read Road residents are currently on septic systems. (Josephson, Cronin)
- The utilities and service system will potential eliminate sewer lines and other services for the Sunset Valley Road and/or Read Road. (Cassar)

Cumulative

- The EIR must consider direct and cumulative impacts to threatened, endangered and sensitive species and movement. (Evans, Center for Biological Diversity)
- The EIR must determine the cumulative significance of the project's greenhouse gas pollution on global warming impacts. (Evans, Center for Biological Diversity)
- Commenter writes that she plans to construct a guest house in her backyard. The purpose of this guest house is to provide additional housing for her mother and to provide a class room to teach children a second language. The large overhead subtransmission lines which SCE proposes next to her home would destroy her plans and dreams for her project. Currently, there are power poles next to the back of her home and the closest one is about 25 to 30 feet from commenter's property. (Wu)

Alternatives Analysis

- The EIR should analyze the feasibility of undergrounding the subtransmission lines, particularly in the vicinity of Olsen Road and Read Road to minimize potential visual and EMF impacts to the community. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- Without the subject project, the affected communities will suffer energy shortages, no doubt resulting in “brown-outs.” (Hauser)
- Commenter believes that if the alternative routes are chosen, then undergrounding must be mandated accounting to the CPUC Rule 20A. (Monast)
- SCE should encourage more energy conservation instead of the Proposed Project, even implementing higher tiered rates for high or excessive usage. (Todesco)
- Commenter holds that poles will dissect right down the middle of the Tierra Rejada Valley through Sunset Valley Road. An area that is rare in southern California for its small farm feel and rural roads. It is just not appropriate for large steel poles to be here. They belong underground or in a commercial or industrial area. (J. Assalley)
- A range of alternatives should be analyzed to ensure that alternatives to the Proposed Project are fully considered and evaluated. A range of alternatives which avoid or otherwise minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources including wetlands/ riparian habitats, alluvial scrub, coastal sage scrub, should be included. Specific alternative locations should also be evaluated in areas with lower resource sensitivity where appropriate. (Pert, California Department of Fish and Game)
- The EIR should analyze the feasibility of undergrounding the subtransmission lines, particularly in the vicinity of Olsen Road and Read Road. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- SCE should explain why the existing tunnel under the Route 23 Freeway cannot be used as an alternative to the 100 foot high subtransmission lines. Please note that when the 100 foot towers are placed on the 50 + foot grade, they are 150 feet above the surrounding homes. (Todesco)
- If new transmissions lines need to be built they should be underground or rerouted. (Josephson)
- SCE fails to address other mitigation measures such as undergrounding, especially odd given that there is existing undergrounding in the area that could be utilized. (Hansing)
- Commenter would like an alternative utilizing the Route 23 Freeway corridor. (Cassar)
- Alternative #3 goes along Madera Road in Simi Valley, right past the Ronald Regan Presidential Library. Commenter thinks the Library representatives will be upset about this. (Gantzek, Rancho Madera Homeowners Association)
- Commenter would like to see 10 to 15 different alternative examined. (Crandall)

- Commenter would like an alternative that undergrounds the transmission lines or a route which would run along Tierra Rejada Road even if it potentially costs SCE more money than the Proposed Project. (Crandall)
- Commenter would like an alternative route used for the towers including an underground option or mitigation measures. (Brewer)
- Commenter would like additional alternatives considered for the Proposed Project. He suggests upgrading the Tierra Rejada lines to the existing substations; upgrading the Potrero/Royal substations; mitigating project need with targeted conservation (via the California Solar Initiative, etc.), locating the substation along the Moorpark-Thousand Oaks No. 2 line, and or underground near residences and scenic areas. Commenter is recommending a combination of alternatives, particularly his second and third alternative options. (Cronin)
- Commenter holds that SCE fails to address other mitigation measures such as undergrounding, which is especially odd given that there is an existing undergrounding in the area that could be utilized. (Crandall, Monast)
- Commenter holds that the cost of undergrounding is only five cents per month per residential customer. Commenter wants SCE to consider undergrounding aspects of the project, given the scenic area, the width of Read Road and the proximity to residences. (Monast)
- Of further concern, is that the alternative substation site is owned by the City of Simi Valley, and placement of a substation there would eliminate current public uses and restrict potential future uses of the site. Alternative subtransmission routes #1 and #2 would place above-ground power lines where none currently exist and would substantially detract from the views in the area, the majority of which traverse open space corridors. (Lyons, City of Simi Valley)
- The City of Simi Valley request that the EIR consider the following changes to the project
 - Design the substation to screen it from the adjacent roadways and properties. Screening methods should include extensive landscaping including large trees and a berm;
 - Underground the portion of the preferred project’s subtransmission lines that would parallel and cross Olsen Road; and
 - If either of the Alternative subtransmission routes are adopted, SCE should underground all lines. (Lyons, City of Simi Valley)
- Commenter expressed concern over Alternative #2 subtransmission lines. Our concerns are in two parts. First, aesthetics on the Olsen Road/Madera Road corridor is the gateway to two Cities; Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley. The addition of large metal subtransmission poles would destroy one of the most scenic roadways in our two cities. Second, and more important, is the fact that this route would put more people at risk than the proposed route or Alternative #1. These risks are actual and perceived. Actual risks include risk of motor vehicle collision with these large unforgiving transmission poles. Because of the limited right-of-way they would have to be located in close proximity to the roadway. Also these very high voltage lines could be damaged and fall to the ground during storms or

earthquakes and put residents at risk. Again, because of the limited right-of-way, these lines will be in close proximity to homes along the corridor. (Brody)

- If the new lines are placed along Moorpark Road to Tierra Rejada under a new proposed alternative and then to Madera to Olsen, then only 1.2 miles of new lines are required versus the 3.5 miles under this current proposal. (Hansing)
- Commenter holds that SCE should have looked at alternative routes along the freeway corridor. (Hansing, Brewer)
- Commenter believes that there is another alternative; placing the tension wires underground. (Morin)
- It would be preferable to place the transmission lines on Tierra Rejada Road. This is a four lane highway with a center turning lane, bicycle lanes on both sides of the highway and a large shoulder on the south side of the road. It already had a set of transmission lines which are set back further from the shoulders. If SCE says there is no room for a second set of poles on the south side of the road, then perhaps larger poles could be used or a second set of poles could be placed on the opposite side of the highway. The new transmission lines could then course south over uninhabited fields to the proposed substation site. There are no homes on Tierra Rejada as is the case for Read Road. If the project is allowed to go forward, cost alone should not decide where the new transmission lines are placed. A longer route, although more costly should still be preferable over the proposed route if it has significantly less adverse environmental effects. (Josephson)
- Commenter objects to above ground power lines when SCE is putting transmission lines underground (Moorpark Road in Thousand Oaks). Commenter holds that constructing these lines underground would reduce health concerns and fire safety to the surrounding neighborhoods. (O’Riordan)
- If Alternative #2 is chosen, commenter would highly recommend that the subtransmission lines be placed underground. This would benefit three fold. First by eliminating the aesthetic problems and second, eliminate the danger of falling high voltage lines. Thirdly, the lines could be placed in or close to the middle of the right-of-way, thus lowering the risk from EMF emissions. (Brody)
- Regardless of the cost, an alternative route or underground lines must be done. (J. Assalley)
- Commenter holds that it is very irresponsible to put someone out of their home where there are alternative routes that could work just as well. Commenter requests that consideration of an alternative route. (Herring)
- Commenter requests for consideration of alternatives that will be positive for the “human environment.” Conservation programs, solar, upgrading existing facilitates, or re-location to an area that does not have the negative impact on the “human environment.” Once this is done, either way, the impact will be for a long, long time. (Hansing)
- As for alternative routes, the commenter strongly urges the consideration of Tierra Rejada Road. This is a major street with lots of traffic that already has large poles. Commenter has been told they would have to run a new set of poles and cannot add more lines to these. We see much larger poles all the time. Commenter is confident that where there is a will there

is a way. Tierra Rejada Road is a much more logical choice. Why would there even be a line running down Sunset Valley Road to Tierra Rejada Road if they did not intend to connect these at some time in the future? There are no homes here, only cars and commercial businesses. The lines already go over the freeway at this spot. (J. Assalley)

- Commenter prefers an alternative route along Olsen Road. Commenter writes that Olsen Road is a major thoroughfare with a four lane plus two bike lanes and a freeway exist. Commenter questions why it makes sense to change the route and have it 110 feet in front of their home and the front yards of the Read Road residents. (Hansing)
- The City of Thousand Oaks has moved towards and requires undergrounding. SCE should be progressive and underground the transmission lines. SCE should underground all lines. (Todesco)
- Commenter would like an Alternative #4 (Moorpark Road to Tierra Rejada Road and an Alternative #5 (Moorpark Road to Tierra Rejada Road to Madera to Olsen Road). (Todesco)
- An alternative of specific conservation and incentive programs to the households in the “demand” area should be developed, proposed and used as a prototype for savings throughout California. Such conservation and rebate incentives would have far less negative impact than the power towers’ construction. The defined area would also allow for measureable results. (Todesco)
- Commenter states that SCE failed to adequately consider alternatives. Only three routes are given in the application and PEA. SCE should use Tierra Rejada Road as an Alternative Route or SCE should consider using the Route 23 Freeway corridor to access the proposed substation location (Todesco, Brewer)
- Commenter states that Read Road is a narrow country road. Commenter believes that there are better alternative locations for the proposed substation and transmission lines. (Josephson)
- Commenter believes that the Potero/Royal Substation could be expanded to fulfill SCE’s electrical need as an alternative to the project. (Crandall)
- Commenter believes that an alternative to the project would be to place the poles down Tierra Rejada Road and then to Madera and Olsen Road. Commenter feels that this would reduce the length of new lines given that there are existing lines on Tierra Rejada Road already. (Crandall)
- Commenter holds that alternative energy, energy conservation, installation of rebate programs, and more alternative measures and routes need to be explored and considered before the SCE spends forty million dollars and adds the cost onto the bills of its customers, who will have trouble over the next two to five years in this economy. (Crandall)
- Commenter would recommend rerouting the system in other undeveloped areas or go underground. (Tanner)

- Commenter states that a project of this size should consider other alternatives. Commenter holds that there should be an emphasis on solar and renewable energy and that it should be a priority. Commenter states that SCE should be mandated to look at these alternatives before going ahead with a project of this size. (Monast)
- Commenter holds that Tierra Rejada should be considered an alternative given the amount of lanes and the width along with the Route 23 corridor. Commenter also holds that the transmission lines should be undergrounded near the Route 23 corridor. (Monast)
- Commenter believes that an investment in regional solar would be far more cost effective and less environmentally damaging. (Underwood)
- Commenter believes that the project should consider the new renewable energy protocols (SB 32, SB 1 and SB 31) and consider the new federal funds available for renewable energy and conservation. (Cronin)
- The City's position is that the EIR should evaluate other "environmentally superior" alternatives that were not addressed or proposed in the PEA. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- The City holds that there should be another substation site alternative outside of the preferred alternative and the alternative sheriff's station site. Other sites including the western and northern portion of the nearby Tierra Rejada Valley particularly a) the land located on the south side of Tierra Rejada Road, east of the State Route 23 Freeway; b) the land generally defined to the north by Tierra Rejada Road, on the south by the intersection of Read Road and Moorpark Road, and on the west by the existing Moorpark-Thousand Oaks No. 2 66 kV Subtransmission line. Potential sites in these areas were previously identified by SCE as indicated in their exhibit dated 1-18-2008 that is entitled "Simi B Substation: Potential Sites" (Site numbers 1, 13 and 14) that were previously provided to City Staff by SCE and is submitted under separate cover. The City believes that such sites previously identified by SCE would better meet the purported future demand for increase electrical capacity within the service area. Additionally, impacts to City designated scenic highway would be lessened. The City would like to see alternative subtransmission routes analyzed in the EIR. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks).
- Commenter states that the applicant has failed to adequately analyze a reasonable range of alternatives. Additionally, SCE has the ability to implement the "Edison Smart Connect Program" within the project vicinity to reduce the overall peak power consumption. (Evans, Center for Biological Diversity)
- Southern California has done a valuable job of purchasing renewable energy from outside the state. But where they have fallen short, and consumers are going to pay the price for it, is where they have to put in transmission lines for fossil fuel based energy coming out of the Moorpark substation. SCE should have been proactive and spent the \$40 million that they are spending on these power lines on a concentrated effort to put in solar. The City of Thousand Oaks did a co-generation plan, or a self generation plan combined with solar. The only other major solar installation is Macy's, which did it as of their own initiative. Southern California Edison needs to invest double or triple over the next year in solar projects and use the money from this rate payer money that would be coming out of this transmission line. There are many other alternatives mentioned that could be used, and

certainly under a no project alternative the increase in solar and self generation in the area would supply enough energy. (Cronin)

- There is no alternative that is remotely close to the targeted substation area. The PEA does not justify why the substation has to be located within the tight circle that the PEA indicates. Even though the Moorpark line runs through that area, and even though there is an easement and setbacks for the Moorpark with Thousand Oaks 2 Line running right through that targeted area, there is no cite in SCE's proposal for the substation within the targeted area. (Cronin)
- The City has been working on a series of alternative exhibits and will propose alternative alignments for not only the subtransmission route to minimize the visual impacts of this project. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- Conservation and other methods should be used rather than putting in these power lines. (Gantzek, Rancho Madera Homeowners Association)
- Commenter does not want power lines across an area that is already undergrounded. The undergrounding has been paid for by the people living there. Putting power lines above the ground should not even be considered. There is enough area in the back country that be can be utilized; SCE doesn't have to go through areas like Read Road and along Madera Road. Southern California Edison and the PUC can come up with other alternatives. Conservation should be considered as the number one goal. (Gantzek, Rancho Madera Homeowners Association)
- In the question-and-answer section of the SCE web page, there is a question regarding the cost of undergrounding. The answer states, "The cost of overhead lines and the equipment is 20 percent the cost of undergrounding." However, the next question asks, "How much of my SCE bill goes to undergrounding?" The answer is as follows. "According to the CPUC and SCE web page, the average cost of undergrounding per residential customer per month is in the neighborhood of a nickel." A nickel. Per person, per house. Commenter doesn't believe that SCE has approached or considered the undergrounding aspect of this project. Undergrounding should definitely be considered because of the scenic area, the narrow width of re-growth, and the closeness of the steel poles to residents. Some of the poles will be as close as 25 feet to homes. One has to consider the destruction of vegetation and trees within a five to ten feet diameter of these poles. As to undergrounding in the area, the present electric line on Read Road actually goes underground in order to cross Route 23, but SCE doesn't want to do that. They want to put in a huge pole and go over the freeway. Undergrounding is a fact and it should be used if this alternative route is chosen. It will minimize the environmental impact on the small, scenic rural area and the corridor at the entrance of the City of Thousand Oaks. (Monast)
- Commenter was told by an SCE engineer that the lines cannot be put underground because that is too expensive. The engineer said that the lines could not be run on Tierra Rejada Road because those towers already have enough lines, and that would add an extra seven miles to the alternative. Commenter feels this contradicts SCE's assertions that they are "a company you can trust, 100 years of service, ... working toward alternative power sources." SCE should spend the money for the seven extra miles or find an alternative route. There should be five alternatives, including one for not doing the project because there is no need for it. (Crandall)

- Commenter has managed communities that had a very limited capacity for electrical distribution, and had a lot of outages. Commenter states that when reminding residents to conserve during peak hours and hot summer hours, usage improvements were noticed immediately. Outages diminished to zero after a minimal effort of communicating voluntary reduction in usage. Commenter asks that CPUC request that Edison reject the project and consider alternatives. (Todesco)
- Commenter is concerned about the limited number of alternatives. The City of Thousand Oaks has heard information about Madera Road already having underground utility lines. One of the things that the City intends to do is carefully consider these comments and hopefully come up with more than just two alternatives. The City has looked at some alternatives and holds that there are feasible and environmentally superior to what they have seen, and the City is going to go back to the drawing board and possibly come up with additional alternatives. The City looks forward to seeing that information and reviewing it as part of the guidelines. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)

General Comments

- Commenter believes that the majority of the Proposed Project would be servicing the City of Simi Valley and that they should bare the burden of locating the project within their jurisdiction. (Crandall, Cronin)
- Commenter thinks SCE is looking for the easiest, cheapest way to get this power to Simi Valley and they need to do what is right. (J. Assalley)
- One cannot put a price tag on the health of our children, and one cannot expect people to walk away from their life's savings which they have put into these homes. (J. Assalley)
- Commenter believes that there are plenty of other options to take into consideration and that this project is not needed at this time. (Fleagane)
- Commenter states that the project would negatively impact her houses which she uses for recreation on Read Road and Sunset Valley Road. (Crandall)
- Many people in the affected area are suffering from very high levels of stress related specifically to this Proposed Project. There is no argument that stress kills and is a major cause of death each year in the United States. Stress levels have increased dramatically from various aspects of this project including but not limited to fear of significant property value declines. Times are tough right now; we just don't have room on our plates for this as well! (J. Assalley)
- Southern California Edison has not done a sufficient job in the project area relative to the California Solar Initiative. In the California Solar Initiative, Southern California Edison is basically operating at about one-third the installed capacity to solar, one-third of the applications of PG&E. PG&E has a smaller goal in Northern California than Southern California Edison has in Southern California. (Cronin)
- Commenter has a family farm located adjacent to Read Road and Sunset Valley Road and is very concerned about the impact of these power lines going in right next to the farm. About 40,000 school children come out on scheduled tours during the year and another 10,000 or 20,000 come out unscheduled throughout the year. Commenter's country

classroom, where he talks to the children before they tour the farm, is located right next to Sunset Valley Road. (Underwood)

- SCE should not be able to just jam this down our throats and be able to sell more electricity. From our perspective, it really seems they were trying to stay under the radar and get this through without proper notice. (J. Assalley)
- The County generally concurs with the comments in the NOP of the EIR and the Notice of Educational Workshop for those areas under the preview of the Transportation Department. The County requests a copy of the EIR for review when it becomes available. (Lalani, County of Ventura Public Works Agency and Transportation Department)
- Commenter holds that alternative energy and consumer conservation are being promoted elsewhere. Consumers are not in a position to have increased energy bills to pay for the project. (Crandall)
- Commenter states that her family bought their five acre property and invested in numerous upgrades to get away from the dangers of the city. (Eaton).
- Ninety-five percent of the power that these lines will carry will be serving Simi Valley. Therefore, the burden of these towers, the health issues, the ugliness of them, should be the responsibility of Simi Valley, not us. (Hansing)
- Commenter holds that they will be severely and adversely impacts if the project is implemented. Commenter is not convinced of SCE's need to proceed with this project. (Josephson)
- Commenter strongly opposes the construction of the project and is generally concerned with tree removal and health hazards, decline in property values. (Chu)
- Commenter does not support the project and is concerned with health and safety issues of training and riding her horses. Construction of the project would negatively affect her business. (Custer)
- Commenter states that they own five thoroughbred houses valued at over \$500,000 and does not want the proposed electrical poles so close (approximately 50 feet) to their live animals. (Eaton)
- Due to the project's proximity to the City of Simi Valley, and the fact that portions of the alternative are proposed within city limits, the City is concerned about the potentially significant impact of the project on the community. (Lyons, City of Simi Valley)
- The EIR should consider mitigation measures that will ensure the energy is used both efficiently and conservatively in order to avoid the wasteful spending that the project construction contemplates. (Evans, Center for Biological Diversity)
- The following comments are being submitted on behalf of Protestant Jose R. Valdez for consideration in preparation of an EIR. Mr. Valdez requests that the following topics be considered and substantively addressed in the EIR.
 - The impact of the Project on the geological and soil environment;

- The impact of the Project on native vegetation and wildlife habitat;
 - The impact of the Project on cultural resources;
 - The impact of the Project on visual quality;
 - The impact of the Project on air quality;
 - The impact of the Project on noise quality;
 - The impact of the Project on water quality;
 - The impact of the Project to public health and safety, including but not limited to the impact of EMFs on humans and the environment;
 - The impact of the Project to current land use;
 - The impact of the Project on traffic and transportation;
 - The impact of the Project on public recreation;
 - The impact of the Project on property values;
 - The overall impact of the Project on property values; and
 - Project alternatives, mitigation procedures and a no project alternative. (Kuttler, Esq., Reich Radcliffe & Kuttler LLP)
- Commenter has general concerns regarding the Presidential Substation Project, specially the portion along Read Road and Sunset Valley Road. (Herring)
 - Commenter feels that the proposed installation of the transmission towers can have nothing but a negative effect on the Tierra Rejada Valley, its residents and the surrounding communities. (Herring)
 - Commenter was upset that SCE placed notices two feet from her for sale sign. Commenter holds that this has affected her ability to see her property. (Crandall)
 - Commenter has concerns regarding the proper noticing for the project. Commenter writes that many along Read Road and the Native Americans were not sent an information packet. (Crandall)
 - Commenter disapproves of the Proposed Project. (Cassar)
 - Commenter is disappointed in project and would like to see a mutually agreeably alternative option. (Arduini)
 - The length of the construction project, which is estimated to be 18 months, would create an environmental mess and a negative impact on the residents of our area both psychologically and financially. (Monast)
 - The City of Thousand Oaks submitted a formal protest on this project. The City has reviewed SCE's response and will be providing written comments with regard to the scoping meeting. The City still has significant concerns with regard to this project, particularly in the area of project need, substation alternatives, route alternatives, aesthetic issues, undergrounding, and also sensitive biological and archeological resources. The City will be providing written comments in more detailed form prior to March 19. (Towne, City of Thousand Oaks)

- The Deer Creek Community Association opposes this project for reasons relating to aesthetics, health concerns, economic concerns, and noise. (Zeolla, Deer Creek Community Association)
- The power lines would go through the HOA's area, and they have a lot of children and a lot of homes that are along Madera Road. (Gantzek, Rancho Madera Homeowners Association)
- There is no reason that SCE should have to build another substation within an area that has been built out. They would go through residential areas where there are school children and various parks and things like this that they would destroy. This is not an environmentally decent project for those people that live there, have to work there and have to be there. Southern California Edison, the PUC and ESA need to review what is being done because the alternatives are not very good. (Gantzek, Rancho Madera Homeowners Association)
- This proposal has a direct impact on the only environment that people get to choose. By the number of humans at the scoping meeting who have dreamed, worked for and now inhabit this environment they call home, their presence here indicates impact to that environment already. People have fear of the unknown, the fear of what this will do to their property values, EMF, and their visual sense of home. These fears lead to stress and stress has a direct physical effect on their personal, human environment. Commenter would like involved parties to work for an alternative. (Hansing)
- SCE has made statements that give the impression that SCE has never walked the terrain. SCE has no concept of what is going on. (Cronin)
- Commenter feels that SCE is being underhanded in communicating about the project and was shocked to find that her protest to the Notice of Application did not count. (Todesco)

Issues Not Analyzed under CEQA

The EIR will be used to guide decision-making by the CPUC by providing an assessment of the potential environmental impacts that may result from the Proposed Project. The weighing of project benefits (environmental, economic, or otherwise) against adverse environmental effects is outside the scope of the EIR. When the CPUC meets to decide on Southern California Edison's application for the Proposed Project, the CPUC will consider the EIR (which will disclose potential environmental effects of the Proposed Project and the Project Alternatives) along with other considerations. Then, it will decide whether or not to approve or deny the Proposed Project based on the information provided in the EIR.

The EIR will not consider electric and magnetic fields (EMF) in the context of the CEQA analysis of potential environmental impacts because [1] there is no agreement among scientists that EMF creates a potential health risk, and [2] there are no defined or adopted CEQA standards for defining health risk from EMF. Presently, there are no applicable federal, state or local regulations related to EMF levels from power lines or related facilities, such as substations. However, under CPUC decision, D.06-01-042, utilities must incorporate "low-cost" or "no-cost" measures for managing EMF from power lines up to approximately four percent of total project cost.

The EIR will not consider comments related to whether or not SCE has the proper easements or rights-of-way for construction, operation, or maintenance of the Proposed Project. Negotiations of rights-of-way or easements would occur between SCE and the property owner and acquisition of an easement would not result in a physical impact to the environment, and would be outside the scope of CEQA. Any physical impacts that would occur within newly acquired ROW as part of the project would be assessed in the EIR.

The EIR also will not consider comments that pertain to SCE's determination of project need. The CEQA process does not require the EIR to assess project need as established by the project applicant. In addition, General Order 131-D establishes the distinction in the review levels a project receives based on the voltage level proposed.⁶ The Proposed Project does not meet the threshold of 200 kV to qualify for a project needs assessment.⁷ Additionally, the application submitted by SCE was for a Permit to Construction⁸ which does not require an electrical needs assessment.

Rights-of-Way Related Comments Received

- Commenter states that this is not the proper easement in front of their home for these types of transmission towers. The easement is for wooden distribution poles, not transmission towers. (Hansin)
- Commenter holds that the project would cross and encroach on existing easement by three feet and requires the acquisition of some property rights that are not clearly defined. (Cronin)
- Commenter states that the new steel tower lines will extend over into her property. Commenter believes that an extended easement would need to be purchased for the project. Otherwise the project would be "taking away" her property. (Crandall)
- Commenter also mentions that they have an easement in their deed for a 35 foot wooden distribution poles with six foot horizontal arms, but that the easement is not for 70 foot transmission towers with 10 feet horizontal arms. (Crandall)
- Commenter states that the project would cross and encroach on the existing easement by three feet and requires the acquisition of some property rights that are not clearly defined. (Cronin)

Economics-Related Comments Received

- Commenter is concerned with the potential tax revenue lost because homeowners will leave their homes, sold or unsold, disrupting the local economy (property taxes). (Cronin)

⁶ As presented in CPUC overview "Electrical Transmission Siting at the California Public Utilities Commission, January 30, 2009."

⁷ According to the January 30, 2009 Electrical Transmission Siting at the California Public Utilities Commission, projects between 50kV and 200kV require a Permit to Construct and the Commission generally does not analyze the need for or economics of these projects.

⁸ Please note that projects over 200kV require a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) from the Commission. Under a CPCN, the Commission's process, the need for a proposed project and the economics of the project would be examined.

- SCE should be progressive and underground the transmission lines. Commenter wants costs of undergrounding verses the Proposed Project and alternative delineated with detail. SCE should underground all lines. (Todesco)
- Commenter would also like SCE to provide a detailed cost comparison of undergrounding the cables along Read Road. (Todesco)
- Commenter holds that the project would reduce property values without compensation. (Cronin)
- Commenter states that these poles would diminish this view and reduce their property value tremendously. (Eaton)
- Commenter wants to know if SCE will pay for the loss in her property value due to Proposed Project. (Crandall)
- These proposed monstrous poles will increase health hazards as well as lower property value. (Tanner)
- Commenter wants the lost revenue to the City of Thousand Oaks identified with the conversion of the proposed substation acres to SCE use rather than residential. (Todesco)
- Commenter stats that the project will create a high pitch noise in the common moisture and foggy conditions and ultimately affect the values of his property. (Cassar)
- Commenter purchased their property at the height of the real estate market and they have already experienced a 30 percent decline in values. With the proposed towers and lines, experts indicate they will lose up to another 40 percent in value. This is unimaginable and the commenter will be forced to sell and in this market, and will lose life's savings. This can't be allowed. (J. Assalley)
- Commenter's property is for sale currently and the Notice from SCE was staked two feet in front of their sale sign. This application negatively affects their ability to sell their property in these very difficult times already. This proposal has serious consequences on their property values as well. (Hansing)
- Edison will fund subject project with no financial assistance from the affected community governments. (Hauser)
- Commenter believes that the surrounding farmland property will decrease in value with project implementation (Wolf)
- Commenter is concerned with decline in property value as a result of the project. (Josephson, Monast)
- This proposal affects commenter's well being, enjoyment of their property while they still live there, negatively affects the ability and value of their home to sell, and poses a serious health and safety risk. (Hansing)
- The Edison folks know the electrical business—when, where and what to build—to save their customers at maximum cost savings. (Hauser)

- If the Presidential Substation Project gets approved, the construction work and future health hazards will bring huge health, mental and financial damages to her family. Commenter requests that the CPUC help her to stop SCE's project. (Wu)
- Commenter writes that the Proposed Project would devastate her property value. Despite SCE's position that other economic factors contribute to property value declines, the project would result in a permanent decrease in property value unrelated to any cyclical house market or economic environment. The result would be a reduced or inability to sell the property and the assessor would see a flood of changes to the property tax assessment resulting in a significant decrease of property tax revenue to the state, county and city. (Tedesco)
- Commenter wants to know if SCE will pay for the loss in her property value due to Proposed Project. Commenter also mentions that they have an easement in their deed for a 35 foot wooden distribution poles with six foot horizontal arms, but that the easement is not for 70 foot transmission towers with 10 feet horizontal arms. (Crandall)
- These proposed monstrous poles will crease health, view and development hazards as well as lower the value of the property. (Tanner)
- The project is going to have a significant effect on property values. The California Association of Realtors estimates that the value loss because of high voltage lines is anywhere from 20 to 30 percent of the property value, depending on proximity. (J. Assalley)
- Commenter and wife will have no other option but to move if the power lines are approved and go up. They will probably also lose their home as no one will buy a home with power lines on it and the home would never be sold. (Valdez)
- Commenter believes that if the power lines go up adjacent to her house she will have to move, give away her dogs, and her family will lose a lot of money. (M. Assalley)
- There is a direct correlation between property values declining and the environmental impacts of the project. (Zeolla, Deer Creek Community Association)
- The project will lower the property value of commenter's property. Commenter has been trying to sell her house for several years, and has lost a lot of prospective buyers since SCE posted the notices. (Crandall)
- The residents located next to the power line would lose millions of dollars in property values. (Wu)
- Commenter is concerned about the effects of EMF exposure on property values. She quotes an article: "In late 1994, Arthur Gimmy, MAI, presented a seminar before the EMF Regulation and Litigation Institute. In part, the seminar presented a matched-sales analysis of California residential property that indicated the lowering of lot values from properties abutting power line easements from 18 percent to a whopping 53.8 percent. It may demonstrate that California landowners are more sensitive to the EMF property devaluation issue." (Crandall)

EMF-Related Comments Received

- There are a lot of opinions regarding whether power lines cause cancer, leukemia and have other negative health benefits. For four years commenter ran the Department of Health and Human Services for the United States government. Commenter states that he has seen firsthand the results of power lines, the health effects, and has read many reports. Commenter has done quite a bit of research and believes power lines are not harmless and that they would cause negative health consequences. (Valdez)
- Commenter states that the project will generate unsafe large and dangerous electromagnetic fields. (Cassar)
- In the past, the City has exercised prudent avoidance, which is a policy that Southern California Edison observes adjacent to schools. The City tries to minimize exposure to local residents in a situation where a new subdivision is located, and the City tries to locate those residential homes outside that 200-foot exposure corridor. The City realizes it has have a different situation here, but feels there may be some alternatives with some undergrounding of the transmission facilities that would accomplish that same goal and appease some of the concerns that the residents have about future health risks associated with these facilities. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- Commenter is concerned about EMF and the school children that frequent the farm. He also believes that it may translate into a problem for the schools that visit the farm because of the proximity of high voltage power lines to the tours and outside classroom. He holds that perception can become reality. The classroom where the children meet in October is only 100 feet from the property line which is adjacent to Sunset Valley Road. Pumpkin picking by the children occurs right up to the property line. (Underwood)
- The perceived risks are that of electromagnetic fields (EMF). It seems that nobody knows at what level EMF radiation becomes a health risk. It is understood that the farther one is from the source (transmission lines) the better. Because of the limited right-of-way along the route for Alternative #2, these lines will be fairly close to the homes along this route. Also, because many of the homes are on hillsides above the right-of-way, the tall transmission poles will actually put residents closer to the source than if their homes were at street level. (Brody)
- Commenter states that their son is 14 years old and has a type of kidney disease that requires him to be on eight different medications. Commenter fears that installing these poles with this amount of kilovolts so close to their house could affect his health, especially since he may need an “in home” dialysis machine in his room while waiting for a kidney transplant. (Eaton)
- Commenter states that the Underwood Farms, their next door neighbor, hosts thousands of visitors each year, including busloads full of school children on field trips. The children come to experience what it is like to be on a farm, to pick vegetables and see farm animals. Having these huge power lines overhead will not contribute positively to their experience and there is concern over the safety of having so many children exposed to the close proximity of the power lines. (Herring)
- Commenter states that their three young children would be exposed to the documented dangers of EMF including but not limited to cancer and childhood Leukemia. (J. Assalley)

- These are larger homes designed for families with kids. Commenter would not be able to sell their homes due to the adverse health effects of these towers and transmission lines have specifically on children. (J. Assalley)
- Commenter is concerned with EMF and health side effect. (Hansing, Brewer, Cronin)
- Commenter expressed their concerns and fears. Fear of EMF exposure, destruction of the Tierra Rejada Valley vistas, and all of the loss of work, time and effort put into organizing and opposing this project. (J. Assalley).
- Commenter is concerned about the health impact of these towers and transmission lines. The cumulative EMF impacts of the homes near the intersection (approximately 100 yards away) of Sunset Valley Road and Read Road will have a greater impact than a single line. (Hansing)
- Exposure to electric and magnetic fields pose serious health hazards and remain a serious concern. Despite SCE's quick dismissal of the risks, there is considerable debate in the medical field; research in this area is still ongoing. (Todesco)
- Commenter is concerned with EMF damages and general health risks from project. (Crandall)
- Cumulative EMF impacts to the homes near the intersection of Sunset Valley and Read Road and the intersection of the line west of Read Road should be determined. The EMF impact is greater than with a single line. (Todesco)
- Commenter states that he and the homeowners of Upper Shawnee Street oppose the high powered tension lines along Reed Road for many reasons the most important is that there may be a link between Leukemia and the electromagnetic tension lines. (Morin)
- Commenter is concerned with EMF and health hazards from the project's high voltage. (Tanner)
- The City of Thousand Oaks holds that the potential levels of EMF exposure to residents living within 200 feet along Read Road should be evaluated. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- The EIR should analyze the feasibility of undergrounding the subtransmission lines, particularly in the vicinity of Olsen Road and Read Road to minimize potential visual and EMF impacts to the community. It is the City's understanding that "prudent avoidance" in the form of a minimum separation of 200 feet is used by SCE between transmission lines and schools. The City required a similar separation of 200 feet between existing transmission lines and residential areas within the Dos Vientos Specific Plan Nos. 8 and 9 (Reference: Final EIR No. 148). (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- Commenter is concerned about EMF exposure to his children. There are numerous studies that link EMF and high voltage lines to leukemia and other childhood illnesses. (J. Assalley)
- Commenter is concerned about EMF exposure to children. (Gantzek, Rancho Madera Homeowners Association)

- Commenter is concerned about the health effects of EMFs. Commenter quotes an article by David Bolton at MAI: “The most recent official pronouncement on the subject reopens the debate and muddies the waters more than ever. In June of 1998, an expert panel convened by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the NIEHS, at the behest of Congress issued an alarming press release. The panel concluded that low frequency EMFs, like those surrounding transmission lines, should be classified as a Group 2B human carcinogen under the International Agency for Research on Cancer classification scheme. A Group 2B classification means that the agent mixture is possibly carcinogenic to humans. The exposure circumstances entail exposures that are possibly carcinogenic to humans.” (Crandall)
- The California Health Department’s final report on power frequency EMF was published in October 13, 2002. This seven year, nine million dollar study concludes EMFs can cause some degree of increased childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, Lou Gehrig’s disease, and miscarriage. The evaluation further concludes that magnetic fields may cause suicide and adult leukemia. (Crandall)
- The pole heights in the simulation are completely false, and commenter has concerns about actual pole heights and harmful EMF exposure to residents. Commenter references a picture of a gray house on Read Road to point out its proximity to the power line. Some of the houses in the project area are within 25 feet of the power line (as measured by an architect), on a grade of 10 feet. An 11-year-old-girl has a second story bedroom in one of the homes, which is in the proximity to the top. Commenter says for this to be appropriate, SCE would have to put the pole at 110 feet. (Cronin)
- Commenter has serious concerns regarding EMF exposure. (Todesco)
- Commenter is concerned with the health to himself, his family and their horses (approximately 100 or so) on their property given the proximity of the transmission poles. (Cassar)

Project Need-Related Comments Received

- Commenter is concerned regarding the technical aspect of the project description and the project need. As a lead agency that has the authority to review the environmental documents, if someone comes to the City of Thousand Oaks with a project description that is so technical that the City doesn’t have the staff capable of reviewing that application, the City will go out and have an independent consultant review that information. This allows the City to make a reasonable judgment that is technically accurate and complete. The City requests that the CPUC and their environmental consultant provide an additional layer of review so that the City can feel confident that the needs assessment provided by SCE is in fact realistic and it is in fact correct, and that the information that the City is receiving is part of the environmental review and can be relied on as accurate. The City requests, as part of the scoping process, that ESA and any sub consultants that ESA may hire review this information, so that the City may have the confidence that the facts and information provided by SCE can be relied on as being accurate and complete. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)
- The Edison folks have determined the growing population demand for energy in the Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley area will necessitate subject project. (Hauser)

- It is not prudent to effect the lives of so many in this community when an increase in demand has not been shown, and over the next 10 years the addition of new technologies and solar will reduce the power need. (J. Assalley)
- The increase in demand for electricity is disputable. The Cities of Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks are nearly completely built out. The demand projections have not been sufficiently justified to support the project. (Todesco)
- Commenter questions the validity of SCE's statement regarding project need due to growth in the general area. (Crandall)
- Commenter states that SCE has not sufficiently justified the need for the project. (Todesco)
- Commenter disagrees with SCE's stated demand for electricity. Commenter went to the California Energy Commission and determined the project area is in Zone 8. Zone 8 is expected to have an energy demand increase of one percent for ten years. Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley are nearly built out; commenter states that there are less than 100 buildable lots in a town of 40,000 homes in Thousand Oaks, and the situation is virtually the same in Simi Valley. Yet SCE expecting a 25 percent increase in demand over the next ten years. Commenter doesn't think that SCE's demand estimate is justifiable because both the City and a number of individuals have asked for the justification of that demand, and none is forthcoming. Commenter states that, in their rebuttal document issued on March 2, SCE indicated that they don't need to justify the demand, which commenter finds incredible. (Cronin)
- SCE, the PUC, and ESA need to review the necessity for this power station. Commenter does not believe the need is there, or that SCE's projections are realistic. (Gantzek, Rancho Madera Homeowners Association)
- Commenter disagrees with the demand for electricity as stated by SCE. Commenter provided documents at scoping meeting that offers new calculations. (Cronin)
- Commenter is concerned by SCE stating they don't need to justify the need or demand for power. (Cronin)
- Commenter questions the need and projected energy demand for the project. Commenter provides SCE materials and his own visual simulations on project in his letter. Commenter states that the demand curve is very speculative per the growth projection in the 2008 models by the CEC, who is generally considered a neutral source for energy demand projections. Commenter proceeds to provide statistical information for the City of Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks in regards to Zone 8 of the report. (Cronin)
- Commenter believes that SCE should adequately explain the projected demand increase considering the limited development available in the affected area. (Todesco)
- Commenter is concerned about an actual "need" for the project. Commenter is also concerned about the data used to calculate such "need." (Crandall)
- Commenter questions the energy demand assumption of 25 percent with no explanation or methodology provided by SCE, especially given the near zero growth in housing units expected. (Cronin)

- Commenter questions the short and long term need of the project. (Underwood)
- Commenter states that SCE has not sufficiently justified the need for the project. (Todesco)
- Commenter is not convinced of SCE's need to proceed with this project. (Josephson)
- Commenter questions the need of the project. (Monast)
- The City's holds that there should be a demonstration of project need. The City holds that there should be substantive information in the EIR to document the need for the substation and related subtransmission lines. The information should include, but not limited to, an analysis of population growth trends, as well as an evaluation of approved projects and vacant parcels zoned for future developed that are located within Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and unincorporated portion of Ventura County to be served by the project. (Smith, City of Thousand Oaks)

General Opposition to the Project

- The Rancho Madera Homeowners Association in Simi Valley oppose the Alternative #2 Presidential Substation route and have collected one signature per household. (Camarillo, Rancho Madera Homeowners Association)
- As a parent, taxpayer, and long time resident of Thousand Oaks, commenter urges not to allow this project to move forward. (J. Assalley)
- Commenter objects to the SCE Presidential Project and the proposed route of Transmission Lines and their proximity to home, Maya Pradera Lane, Read Road and Sunset Valley Road. (J. Assalley)
- Commenter states that her husband commutes 144 miles per day for work so that they can live in the area and in their home. Commenter also states that she is a mom who is trying to protect her son from any further health issues. They do not want power poles carrying this type of voltage in front of their home. (Eaton)
- The overhead subtransmission line project is a wrong approach for SCE to conduct because the damages it will permanently bring to out environmental and life. (Wu)
- Commenter opposes the Presidential Substation Project. (Todesco)
- Commenter requests a stop to this project as soon as possible. (Josephson)
- Commenter expresses opposition to the Proposed Project. (Edwards)
- Where we live is one of the few "environments" we get to choose. We have chosen this area for many reasons and every reason will be impact by this project. (Hansing)
- We as humans have fear of the unknown. Today our state, our country and now our homes are facing unimaginable unknown. The physical stress that these unknown are putting on all of our "human environments" is substantial. (Hansing)

- The Community of the Rancho Madera Homeowners Association in Simi Valley opposes the SCE from executing Alternative #2 on the Presidential Substation Project. (Camarillo, Rancho Madera Homeowners Association)
- Commenter strongly opposes the project as presented and requests the project be denied or modified so that transmission lines passing through Read Road and their community are placed underground. (Todesco)
- The proposed power lines are yet another insult to the general public's rights as citizens. If solar power were used in a similar rate plan as in Germany, one would have less need for new, dangerous, costly, ugly power lines. Please think for a moment about the alternative to degrading our beautiful farm and open space and all the many reasons listed by STTOP group and work as neighbors not as wall street, big business self serving faceless corporations. (Wolf)
- Commenter wishes to put on record his opposition to the proposed routing of the high powered transmission line project through the Tierra Rejada Valley. (O'Riordan)
- The proposed transmission towers for the Presidential Substation Project would completely alter the environment on a permanent level and cause major disruption while being constructed. Commenter objects to the building of the towers and holds that they are unsafe and an eye sore to the community. (Brewer)
- Commenter states that there is improper segmentation and piecemeal environmental review of SCE System Upgrades. (Evans, Center for Biological Diversity)

General Support for the Project

- It is my recommendation that with their management skills Edison be given a green light to proceed with subject project. This would provide maximum benefits to Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley. (Hauser)

5. Consideration of Issues Raised in Scoping Process

A primary purpose of this Scoping Report is to document the process of soliciting and identifying comments from interested agencies and the public. The Scoping Process provides the means to determine those issues that interested participants consider to be the principal areas for study and analysis. Every issue that has been raised that falls within the scope of CEQA during scoping will be addressed and/or be considered in the EIR.