

Good evening. My name is Lena Ian, and I'm speaking today on behalf of the Santa Clara Valley Open Space authority as a public agency. Our mission is to conserve the natural environment, support agriculture, and connect people to nature for the benefit of current and future generations. Our comments this evening will be followed by a more detailed comment later this month, but overall the Open Space Authority is supportive of the overall goals of the power Santa Clara Valley project to strengthen the reliability of the electrical grid, and to provide increased access to affordable renewable energy. Throughout the project, the Open Space Authority has proactively engaged with both LS Power and PG&E to support least conflict siting that best serves public interest and investments. We strongly support the environmentally superior alternative combination, one which co-locates the Southern HVDC or Grove terminal at the existing Metcalf PG& E Substation. Co-location would be less costly for ratepayers, more energy efficient and involve fewer environmental impacts compared to the proposed site which is undeveloped agricultural land. That is a part of an important wildlife corridor located within the Coyote Valley conservation program area. To date, over 120 million dollars in public and private investments have been made to protect over 1,500 acres of this important landscape, which lie directly across from the proposed site. In addition to significant, unavoidable impacts to agricultural resources, we believe the EIR inadequately evaluated and therefore underestimated the impacts of this location on wildlife connectivity. The analysis concludes that impacts could be reduced to a less than significant level, but it does not consider planned and in progress wildlife connectivity improvements, including those with the Valley transportation, authority, and peninsula, Open Space Trust as well as planned improvements from high speed rail. So in summary, again, we support alternative Combination one. It's our understanding that LS Power and PG& E agree that co-location is feasible. It is feasible, and we are hoping that an agreement for co-location will be reached soon. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.