

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to comment. My name is Alice Kaufman. I'm the policy and advocacy director for green foothills. and we support alternative combination one, the alternative in the EIR which locates the Grove terminal at the PG&E Metcalf substation, and which was identified in the EIR as the environmentally superior alternative. We believe that the CPUC should choose alternative Combination one as the preferred path forward for the Power Santa Clara Valley project. Locating the Grove terminal at the Metcalf substation instead of on an orchard in Coyote Valley would significantly reduce the environmental impacts of the project. Coyote Valley forms a critical landscape linkage for wildlife to migrate between the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range. Numerous scientific studies support conserving all of Coyote Valley as protected open space to ensure the environmental and economic vitality of the greater San Jose area. Santa Clara County voters agree and have consistently and overwhelmingly demonstrated their support for conservation of Coyote Valley. The Coyote Valley orchard that would be the site for the terminal under the project as proposed, is right next to Coyote Creek, which is the backbone of the Wildlife Corridor, through Coyote Valley. Animals that depend on the Creek corridor to be able to migrate from the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Diablo range would be subject to noise, nighttime, lighting, human activity, and other disturbances from the construction and operation of the energy facility. Furthermore, Monterey Road, where the orchard site is located, is already a wildlife, roadkill, hotspot. The highest incidence of bobcats, badgers, coyote, deer, and other animals being killed by cars is right around this location, proving that animals are desperately trying to get across Monterey Road to the safety of Coyote Creek on the other side. Putting a 6-acre energy facility in the path of these animals will only make this problem worse. Please choose AC-1 as the preferred path forward for the Power Santa Clara Valley Project. Thank you.