

Stacey Kelch, RN, BSN
17394 Ave. 288 Exeter, CA 93221
Home: (559) 592-7266
Email: staceygirl78@yahoo.com

Mr. Jensen Uchida
San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Transmission Project
C/O Environmental Science Associates
225 Bush Street, Suite 1700
San Francisco, CA 94104-4207
Fax 415-896-0332 Email: sjxvl@esassoc.com
RE: proposed Southern California Edison: San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop 220KV
Transmission Line Project

My name is Stacey Kelch. I am a registered nurse that resides in Exeter, California. I am writing this letter with serious concerns related to the proposed Southern California Edison: San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop 220KV Transmission Line Project.

I reside in close proximity to a portion of the proposed route 1. As I was unable to attend the July 23rd Visalia Convention Center meeting, I am writing this letter after reviewing the Environmental Impact Report Summary with serious concerns.

As my husband and I, who is a General Contractor, reside near the proposed project route 1 (within 1 mile), we would be directly affected by this project, so as you may understand, it is of great importance to us that specific impact studies on all aspects of this project are explored prior approval of Route 1. These include environmental, economic, health, aesthetic, historic, and biological related issues, to name some.

On a personal note, my family runs a small family farm near Exeter which would also be directly affected by this project. This is a small family business and residence. I understand that people need power and energy, and in the grand scheme of things this small family business may seem insignificant, but in this struggling economy all aspects of this project deserve to be explored and investigated fully to determine that the proposed route by Southern California Edison is indeed in the best interest of all. As the DEIR summary suggests, Route 1 is not the best choice. Instead, a slightly altered route 3 would be the ideal choice with the least total impact.

I urge Southern California Edison and the Public Utilities Commission to consider and proceed with Alternate Route 3 and abandon the proposed route 1. As a professional in the medical field, a main concern is the lack of attention given to impacts from a 220KV power line to health. Reasons to proceed with Alternate Route 3 include:

- 1.) The DEIR does not fully identify associated risks related to patients with implanted pacemakers or Implantable Cardioverted-Defibrillators (ICD) living or working near the proposed route 1. The report identified cardiac pacemakers, but failed to identify patients with ICD devices:

- a. ICDs are pacemaker-like devices that continuously monitor the heart rhythm, and deliver life-saving shocks if a dangerous heart rhythm is detected. They can significantly improve survival in certain groups of patients with heart failure who are at high risk of ventricular fibrillation (VF).
 - b. Cardiologists specifically instruct patients with these implanted devices to avoid strong magnetic fields (such as high voltage power lines), large magnets (such as those in MRI machines), antennas, arc welders, and industrial equipment. Electrical equipment and appliances may interfere with these devices.
 - c. According to the Table ES-4 Summary of Impact and Mitigation for the Proposed Project, 4.7-10, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, there was reported a, “less than significant residual impact,” related to, “electric field interference with cardiac pacemakers.” **There is no mention of cardiac ICD devices in this report summary. This also suggests that there is no significant impact related to these high voltage lines which is contrary to information given by cardiologists or health professionals.**
 - d. I urge that further studies be made before proceeding with this project as route 1 and 2 and 6 are in close proximity to residential areas, specifically the communities of Ivanhoe, Exeter, Farmersville, Woodlake, and Lemon Cove, California.
 - i. Estimated populations for these nearby communities include:
 Exeter: Population in July 2008: 9,963. Farmersville:
 Population in July 2008: 10,056. Woodlake: Population in July 2008: 7,418. Lemon Cove: Population in July 2007: 313. Total approximate population living near suggested project estimated at : 27,750.
 - ii. Numbers of those in the surrounding area with permanent pacemakers or ICD devices are unknown, therefore, further studies should be completed to investigate this issue further.
- 2.) Lack of scientific study on possible related health risks associated with living in or working in close proximity to high voltage power lines:
- a. Exeter: Population in July 2008: 9,963. Farmersville: Population in July 2008: 10,056. Woodlake: Population in July 2008: 7,418. Lemon Cove: Population in July 2007: 313. Total approximate population living near suggested project Route 1 estimated at : 27,750.
- 3.) Route 3 uses more of the existing right-of-way, which meets the Garamendi Principles in SB2431.

- 4.) Route 3's primary criticism is that it is too near the Stone Corral Ecological Preserve. This can easily be avoided by slightly changing the course of route 3.
- 5.) There is much less damage to intensive agriculture land including permanent crops, wells, drive rows, etc., as mentioned in the DEIR summary, Table ES-3 and Table ES-4.
- 6.) The 100 year old Rector line is low, noisy, and dangerous. The new line would greatly reduce EMF emissions.
- 7.) Routes 1, 2, and 6 have more negative environmental impact to agriculture, communities, and people.
- 8.) The land and business impacts to the city of Farmersville were not adequately addressed in the DEIR.

The DEIR has done a good job of pointing out that there are areas that would be directly impacted by route 1, the largest seeming related to agriculture, which is a main source of income in this area. The DEIR also shows that there are many aspects of this project that have failed to be addressed in detail. Evidence suggests that with slight modification, Route 3 would be the ideal choice for environmental, economic, aesthetic, and health related reasons. **I strongly urge the PUC to deny project 1 and instead approve a modified proposal of route 3 for this project.**

Though these communities may seem small, the impact of proposed route 1 may have unknown negative effects on this economy and community. Exeter is a small town that prides itself on its small town charm. There are small shops and beautifully decorated murals. The surrounding area is filled with agriculture land and citrus groves, which add to the character and economy of this small community. The town sits at the bottom of the Sierra Nevada foothills. It is a charming little stop for tourists on the way to the Giant Sequoia forest.

It may not seem like much to some, but it is for those that reside, work, and travel here. It is for the farmers that would lose income and production with the loss of orchard trees or row crops to make way for this power line. For those whose houses are directly in its proposed path or in near proximity. **My plea is that the PUC considers all aspects of the impact of this project prior to approval, and instead approves Route 3, which as the DEIR supports, would have the least impact, requiring only slight modification.**

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Stacey Kelch, RN, BSN
17394 Ave. 288 Exeter, CA 93221
Home: (559) 592-7266
Email: staceygir178@yahoo.com