


My name is Gus Marroquin I am a farm labor contractor. I own and operate Mid Cal farm labor. I live in the town of Orosi with my a wife and four children.. I want to thank you for coming here today to listen to what I have to say. I grew up working in the fields, some of the same fields that are proposed to be removed because of the power lines. I have made my living in these fields all my life. I am very concerned about proposed Alternate route numbers 1, 2, 6 because they all remove valuable farm acreage that can't really be replaced. My largest growers farm in these routes and I know that they will lose acreage. My company employs 20 people year round and up to 80 people at the busiest time of the season. We are absolutely dependent on agriculture. My employees live in the communities of Cutler, Orosi and Dinuba. These small communities are hurting not only because of the general bad economy but particularly because of the bad farm economy. There are fewer and fewer growers able to make it today. Just this year we lost three major stone fruit companies who farmed not even 30 minutes away from here. Even now as I speak thousands of people in Mendota and Huron are out of work, why? Because no water is flowing to the Westside, no water, means no farming, no farming means no farm workers working. If my growers lose acreage, I lose work and my employees lose work. Our money gets spent right here in these communities. As the farm goes so do we. If these power lines take out farm acreage we all suffer. This is why I am asking the PUC to consider and choose the route with the least amount of prime farmland route # 3.

Thank you

Gus Marroquin

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gus Marroquin", followed by a horizontal line.