
From: WB Pescosolido [mailto:wb.pescosolido@mac.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2009 6:44 AM
To: San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Project
Subject: Comments on Draft EIR for Application A.08-05-039

Comments on Draft EIR for Application A.08-05-039
From Merryman Ranch Company

In our opinion, the Draft EIR is a good attempt to address the issues raised by the Cross Valley Loop. From our point of view, all the alternatives discussed by the Draft EIR are preferable to SCE's proposed route. But it appears that alternative 3 looks to be the best in that it has by far the least impact on California's prime farm land.

We would like to stress, however, that Merryman Ranch will lose more land under the proposed SCE route than suggested in the Draft EIR. The cost to Merryman Ranch is not just the removed trees for the power line towers and the lost income on them, but also the loss of income from the trees located under the power lines themselves. Those trees will have to be kept trimmed lower so as not to interfere with the lines. And if SCE does not allow the Topping and Hedging machines to trim those trees, due to safety concerns, those trees will have to be removed as well, clear cutting a swath of land through our orange grove.

Irrespective of that, our irrigation lines & system will have to be removed & redesigned, our spraying patterns will have to be changed and several of our wind machines will have to be moved. All at an additional cost than considered in the DEIR.

One other item that was not raised in the DEIR is that on our property in the late 1800s one of the first orange groves was planted in Tulare County next to the historic Merryman Station. Those groves are an important link to the past and were the first groves of what would become the center of the Citrus Belt - the best citrus land in the US.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

Winthrop Pescosolido
for Merryman Ranch