

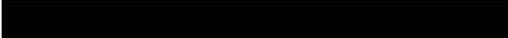
**From:** [Grant Helete](#)  
**To:** [estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com](mailto:estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com)  
**Subject:** Public Comment RE: Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project DEIR  
**Date:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 4:41:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [Public Comment RE SE-PLR-2 Alternative.pdf](#)

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Hello,

Attached you will find a written comment regarding the SE-PLR-2 Templeton-Paso South River Road Route alternative for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project. Please let me know if there are any issues with the pdf file or if anything else is needed to complete the written comment process.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration,

**Grant Helete**, Community Organizer  
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*Protecting and preserving San Luis Obispo County's natural beauty since 1971*

To Whom It May Concern,

As a representative of the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO), I am writing in opposition of the proposed SE-PLR-2 Templeton-Paso South River Road Route alternative for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project.

Alternative SE-PLR-2 proposes the construction of high-voltage overhead transmission lines over fault lines that run through a populated area located within a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone as designated by CAL FIRE. Above-ground transmission lines have been responsible for some of the most devastating fires in the history of the United States as a whole, including the infamous Camp Fire—the deadliest and most destructive fire in the history of California. Proposing the installation of this dangerous infrastructure is irresponsible and will greatly increase the potential for wildfire within the project area. As climate change extends the fire season here in California, it is crucial that action is taken to mitigate against the risk of wildfire throughout the state, something that Alternative SE-PLR-2 is in direct opposition of.

In addition to increasing the risk of wildfire, Alternative SE-PLR-2 will result in impacts to local wildlife, native plants, and culturally significant sites. Included among these impacts are the clearing of heritage oaks, an increased threat to known nearby nesting golden eagles from the proposed location of the transmission lines, and the destruction of archeological sites eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historical Places. The combination of these substantial impacts is unique to Alternative SE-PLR-2 and is not found in any of the proposed alternative combinations to which Alternative SE-PLR-2 is not included in.

As such, ECOSLO is urging the CPUC to reject Alternative SE-PLR-2 and approve a route that is less threatening to public safety, wildlife, cultural resources, and the environment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Grant Helete, Community Organizer  
ECOSLO - Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo