

January 15, 2020

Mr. Rob Peterson, CPUC
C/O Tom Engles, Ph.D.
Horizon Water and Environment, LLC
266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210
Oakland, CA 94610

Re: Opposition to SE-PLR-2, Templeton - S. River Road Route Alternative

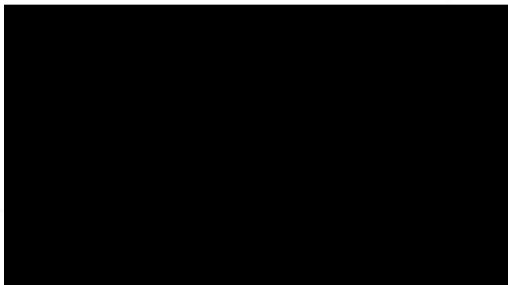
Dear Dr. Engels,

I oppose the S. River Road route alternative for the following serious reasons:

- 1. Wildfire Danger: The South River Road alternative (SE-PLR-2) and the Templeton Substation are both situated entirely within the HIGH FIRE HAZARD ZONE.** The EIR clearly states that the SRR alternative is in a High Fire Hazard Zone! It is stunning that this route is even a contender. How could this route be an option when the conditions of this location are so clearly ill-suited for such an installation? Surely this alternative is not truly an alternative but a contrast to far more safe alternative locations. PG&E must know that to place a high power line in the midst of a documented high fire zone is tantamount to welcoming a tragic wildfire. This evidence alone should exclude any further discussion about this route as a candidate for a high power transmission line!
- 2. Transmission lines known to be the cause of wildfires!** Multiple reports of the causes for California wildfires - Camp and Kincade fires in particular, cite transmission lines as the initial and primary causes. The failure of the equipment started those fires. The same type of towers and lines proposed in this project. This alternative sits squarely in a high fire hazard zone - and the proposal to add the very equipment that started disastrous wildfires in California communities is beyond comprehension! Surely other locations or other approaches - under-grounding, battery backups are more suitable for this project than this location with high power towers and lines!
- 3. Wildfire risk during construction of towers and lines:** The DEIR notes clearly "any accidental ignition from construction equipment or the electrified 70 kV power line once operational could have significant effects on the surrounding rural residential community along South River Road and surrounding areas". Knowing in advance of construction that the very construction of these lines run the risk of starting a wildfire, creating confinement without a safe escape or some electrical outage putting residents in a unknowable end to dark period is concern enough to remove this route from candidacy, given the high fire hazard zoning.

There are no scenarios where this route is the pick of the alternatives considering the enormous risks this route presents. I urge you to eliminate this route from the list.

Cordially,



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Dear Dr. Engels,

I oppose the S. River Road route alternative for the following serious reasons:

1. Wildfire Danger: The South River Road alternative (SE-PLR-2) and the Templeton Substation are both situated entirely within the HIGH FIRE HAZARD ZONE. Santa Ysabel Ranch is a development that is sandwiched between South River Road, Santa Ysabel Avenue and connects to Neal Springs Road via Hanging Tree Lane. This entire area is encapsulated in a high fire hazard zone, per your submitted EIR. Why would the power company knowingly place high power transmission lines inside a high fire hazard zone, when there are far better options in low fire hazard zone areas near by?

2. Restricted evacuation routes in cases of emergency: As noted above this development has very few exits. Santa Ysabel Avenue is a short access road on the west, between the development and SRR, which means that SRR is the only road on the east side of the development for residents to exit onto in the event of an emergency. Secondly, Neal Springs Road to the south of the development, can only be accessed from the development by either SRR or Hanging Tree Lane. Both of these roads are identified in this route, meaning residents attempting to exit in the case of an emergency will be faced with these power lines via the only two avenues for egress. There is not a north exit route.

At the same time, emergency vehicles would be required to use the same two roads (SRR and Neal Springs Road) to enter into the area to assist and deal with the emergency. These roads are narrow, windy with blind curves and hills. In light of these limitations and the very real potential for delays, chaos, being trapped and unable to exit and the loss of life and property are surely unacceptable risks to take.

3. Growth areas needing power resources: Recently, the initiation of building nearly 2000 new homes and businesses in Paso Robles, was announced. This plan has apparently been underway for some time. The need for increased and stored power is primarily a Paso Robles development need. SYR is located in unincorporated Templeton, and Templeton and associated areas have minimal expansion possibilities. The SRR alternative is almost exclusively placed in the Templeton area and affecting Templeton residents. Why isn't the focus of the need and the equipment in the area of need and development?

Respectfully, I ask that you remove this alternative from the list of considerations.

Regards,

