

Rob Peterson, CPUC
c/o Tom Engels
Horizon Water and Environment, LLC
266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210
Oakland, CA 94610

January 8, 2021

**Re: Opposition to SE-PLR-2, Templeton-S. River Route Alternate
Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project**

Dear Dr. Engels,

I have read the Draft EIR for the above referenced project and was on the December 15, 2020 Zoom meeting where it was discussed. There are several reasons why I oppose the SE-PLR-2 - Templeton-S. River Alternative, aka Alternative Combination #4.

First, we live where the **Wildfire danger is extreme** according to County designated maps. Our community, Santa Ysabel Ranch, has three exits. Two exit onto S. River Road, which, under the scenario of either the Camp (11/18) or Kincadee (10/19) Fires, would likely cut off any evacuation on S. River Road. In those two fires, it was determined to have been caused by PG&E transmission lines. Public Safety would be severely undermined if only one single lane evacuation exit, over 2 miles away, was the only evacuation route available.

Second, **Santa Ysabel Ranch is home to at least one pair of Golden Eagles** who have nested successfully in at least two nests over the last decade. We have photos of the young in the nests for 4 out of the last 5 years. Both nests have been documented and entered into the California Natural Diversity Database, under the auspices of the California Fish and Wildlife. The construction of the transmission lines under this alternative would greatly impact the movement and hunting for these protected birds. Additionally, there are Bald Eagles that frequent Spanish Lakes Community on the other side of River Road that visit the Santa Ysabel Ranch Lake which would require them to go under or over the transmission lines posing a threat of their electrocution.

Third, in reading **Table 5-3 Approximated Cost Calculations for the Proposed Project and Alternative Combinations**, I would like to point out **an error** and an observation. The error occurs under the footnote 3 for Alternative Combination #4 (South River Road). In the footnote, instead of Alternate Combination #4, it reads #3. My observation stems from the December 15 meeting where a participant said that in looking at the costs table, it seemed obvious to him that you should be looking at the least expensive (i.e. Alternative Combination #4). However, if you take footnote 3 into consideration, "the Alternative Combination #3 (*should be #4*) would be more expensive to construct due to the need to rebuild portions of the existing Templeton Substation ... would be more expensive than the Proposed Project." By using footnotes rather than approximate costs for rebuilding the Templeton Substation, you give people an incomplete cost analysis of the project as a whole.

Please reject the SE-PLR-2 Alternate to preserve public safety and our protected wildlife, as well as be fiscally responsible.

