

January 12, 2021

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

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

Dear Dr. Engels:

I and my wife live at [REDACTED] located in Santa Ysabel Ranch. I am writing in opposition to the South River Route Alternative, for several reasons.

First and foremost is the ever-present danger of fire. As our climate becomes dryer and dryer on the central coast, we must do everything we can to mitigate this danger. Specifically, the proposed South River Route would be a terrible choice from the inevitable danger of fire. Being directly on the Templeton Gap we have many days of high winds, especially in the dry months when the risk of fire is at its highest. Warm Springs Lane runs parallel to South River Road and it is the easement along our road where the proposed power line would go. If/when the winds bring down a line, the residents of Warm Springs Lane would be TRAPPED as there would be no available exit for us to leave our homes. We are directly backed by a 2-mile-long valley that is 100% natural and filled with oaks and underbrush to fuel a deadly fire. Again, we would be trapped between fire in the valley and downed lines and fire just feet from our homes. This is unconscionable and would ultimately end in injuries and even deaths along our road. In fact, as the Santa Ysabel Ranch development was being planned, PG&E/CPUC demanded that we put all power lines underground as it was deemed a high-risk fire zone.

Secondly, we have abundant and vibrant bird life: specifically, we have a nesting pair of protected Golden Eagles that have been just behind the homes on Warm Springs Lane for many years. Their nest is less than half a mile from your proposed route. Bald eagles and many types of water fowl also use the small lake behind our houses.

The choice of the South River Route would be the WRONG choice for the safety and well-being of Santa Ysabel Ranch, and particularly Warm Springs Lane residents, not to mention our protected wildlife. We hope you will use your best judgement and opt for one of the other Routes.

Sincerely,

