

1 January 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 oppose the S River Road Route Alternative for the following reasons:

Transmission lines in this Wildfire Hazzard Zone will greatly increase the risk of fire while simultaneously blocking all exits. Santa Ysabel Ranch is located within a High Fire Hazzard Zone of open brush and numerous drought-stressed oak trees (all numbered by California preservation requirement). An unavoidable arc from these overhead lines (or a downed line on the accident-prone S River) would ignite a fire that would spread rapidly through the ranch, likely burning over numerous homes located within 200' of the line, before firefighting equipment could arrive. All three of the Ranch exits could be blocked, preventing evacuation. This would also affect our ability to retain/obtain property insurance.

Our resident Golden Eagles, and visiting Bald Eagles, would be endangered by high power lines on S. River Road, a known wildlife migration path. There are several Golden Eagle nests on SYR, for which there is photo documentation of hatchlings over the last 5 years. The eagles may be killed due to electrocution or collision with the power lines, and nesting be disrupted by the construction. Other birds in the migration path would also be at risk.

Native American cultural artifacts and Heritage Oaks may be lost due to construction. The area includes documented Chumash and Salinan sites, including one within the area of proposed pole installation. Ancient oaks line S River Road. Why lose these for so little benefit?

The energy increment required for our area, Paso Robles 1107, is small enough that it can be met through other means, such as battery or thermal storage. PG&E is proposing 5 MW of capacity needed for growth N and E of Paso Robles. Only .53 MW (per PG&E D1DF) is targeted for Templeton. Why is high power/risk aerial transmission through a low-need area being considered instead of placing the station nearer the growth area and/or using more modern, 'non-wire' alternatives? This is such a high cost to our neighborhood and safety for the small local need of .53 MW.

For the sake of public safety and wildlife preservation, please do not put a major transmission line along S. River Road.

