

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

January 1, 2021

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

Dear Dr. Engels,

I oppose the S. River Route Alternative for the following reasons:

Transmission lines in a Wildfire area will greatly increase our risk of fire.

Santa Ysabel Ranch is located within a High Fire Hazard Zone. Both the Camp Fire in Nov. 2018 (that burned Paradise) and the Kincade Fire in Oct. 2019 were determined to have been caused by PG&E transmission line. Please don't put us further at risk by allowing this route to proceed.

Our resident Golden Eagles (and visiting Bald Eagles) would be endangered by high power lines on S. River Rd., a known wildlife migration path. There are several Golden Eagle nests on SYR. We have photos of young in the nests for 4 of the past 5 years. Construction of the lines on S. River is estimated to take 9 months. The eagles may be killed due to electrocution / collision with the power lines.

Wildlife communities would be adversely impacted. The proposed alignment/project would have substantial adverse effects on riparian habitat associated with Spanish Camp Creek and other sensitive natural communities identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service including federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. In addition, construction of the project would result in the permanent disruption and loss of important wildlife corridors and the long term operation and maintenance of the project would result in other unintended impacts related to the use chemical or mechanical control of vegetation within the utility right of way that could contribute to the loss of native plant species diversity and could be a continuous source of sedimentation into Spanish Camp Creek and the Salinas River. In addition to these potential impacts, transmission lines can pose collision and electrocution risks to migratory birds.

General plan conflict. The proposed alignment is not consistent with SLO County's current General Plan which identifies aesthetics as one of the important factors contributing to the County's "community character," this includes goals and policies that bear directly on the preservation of aesthetic character and visual resources. The proposed project would significantly degrade the existing visual character of the Warm Springs community.

The proposed project would be located on a known fault line, the Rinconada fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map for the area. This fault has the potential to produce a 7.3 magnitude earthquake.

The energy required for our area, [REDACTED], is small enough that it can be accomplished with battery or thermal storage. Templeton has no capacity for substantial residential or commercial growth, and a power line on S. River Rd. is contrary to the California policy targeting "non-wire" alternatives. This is such a high cost to our neighborhood, our wildlife and our fire safety, for the local need being so small at .53MW.

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

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]