



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

RE: Opposition to SE-PLR-2, Templeton – South River Road Alternative

I am writing to express our organization's strong opposition to the installation of high voltage electrical transmission lines through an established wildlife corridor where both bald and golden eagles nest and hunt in and around the lakes and streams on both sides of South River Road. To bisect these nesting and feeding grounds with electrical transmission lines violates both the letter and the spirit of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act that specifically prohibits any individual or organization from "taking" or "disturbing" these protected animals.

There is no mitigation for the indisputable fact that active golden eagle nests exist within a few seconds (as the eagle flies) of the proposed route of the SE-PLR-2, Templeton – South River Road Alternative.

One of our members has documented previous nesting and fledging activity for the California Natural Diversity Data Base and is documenting the current year's nest. This nest is 320 yards from the proposed South River Road Alternative, another nest is 412 yards, and another is 573 yards. Golden eagles leave these nests on the west side of South River Road to hunt on the east side—a long established pattern that would force them to cross the deadly transmission lines several times each day.

On behalf of our Morro Coast Audubon members, I ask the commission to reject the South River Road Alternative and approve a route that poses no danger to the eagle, hawk and owl populations that nest, rear their young, and hunt for food in and around Santa Ysabel lake, Spanish Lakes, the Salinas River and their connecting creeks and streams.

Sincerely,

Judy Neuhauser
President, Morro Coast Audubon Society