

**Letter BA: Carey Glenn (January 8, 2021)**

**Letter BA**

January 8, 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,

BA-1 | I would like the chance to voice my opposition to the proposed S. River Route Alternative for the following reasons:

BA-2 | 1) This route (SE-PLR-2) and the Templeton Substation are situated entirely in a fire zone. As you know, the California fire season has increased in both length and severity in recent years and route placement such as this would only exacerbate the issue. This is the only route combination that is FULLY within the High Fire Hazard Zone. There is also a high probability that a fire could be started accidentally during construction from construction equipment. I cannot understand why this route would even be considered with the high potential of harm to both property and lives.

BA-3 | 2) The power lines in the proposed route are the same type implicated in the 2018 Camp Fire and 2019 Kincade Fire. We cannot risk such dangerous equipment being placed so close to homes and dry vegetation.

BA-4 | 3) Assuming these lines sparked a wildfire, their placement would severely impact evacuation paths for the entirety of Santa Ysabel Ranch. Two of the community’s three evacuation routes flow directly onto South River Road. A fire started on River Road would reduce all resident & visitor evacuations to a single exit, costing precious time. This would dramatically increase the chance of injuries and death.

BA-5 | 4) Templeton has very little capacity for substantial residential or commercial growth. Growth for Paso Robles is expected to occur north and east, near the Paso airport. Put the substation near the growth path rather than the opposite end of the area.

BA-6 | 5) The unmatched beauty of S. River Road and SYR would be destroyed by 20 massive steel poles. This one of the last pastoral and serene routes entering Paso. Destroying the natural beauty of this route would be a travesty. One that you could never reverse. In addition, this proposed project is NOT consistent with SLO County’s current general plan which clearly identifies aesthetics as one of the most 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 recourses. I encourage you to drive the S River Road route in the early morning or at sunset. It is the most beautiful drive I have ever seen. I cannot imagine this being destroyed by 20 massive power poles, when there are clearly much better alternatives.

BA-7 | I humbly request that you take these arguments to heart when deciding on the power line route. I implore you to not put any power lines along S. River Road.

Sincerely,



Cary Glenn  
2464 Battering Rock Rd.  
Templeton Ca. 93465  
[Cglenn7708@aol.com](mailto:Cglenn7708@aol.com)  
949-813-2230 cell

**Response to Comment BA-1**

The commenter provides an introduction to the remainder of the comment letter. The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BA-2**

The comment asserts that Alternative SE-PLR-2 should not be selected or considered because it is in a High Fire Hazard Zone and the Proposed Project's route placement would "exacerbate the issue." For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, as well as a discussion on the Project's effects on exacerbation of fire hazards, please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BA-3**

Please refer to Response to Comment BA-2.

**Response to Comment BA-4**

The comment expresses concern about the potential for adverse impacts to evacuation routes/ability in the event of a wildfire associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to concerns regarding potential impacts to evacuation routes, please refer to Master Response 6.

**Response to Comment BA-5**

This comment alleges that Templeton has "very little capacity" for residential and commercial growth, whereas growth for Paso Robles is anticipated in the north and east, near the Paso Robles Airport. The comment argues the substation should be placed near the growth area. As described in Volume 1 of the FEIR (refer to Section 4.14, "Population and Housing," and Chapter 6, *Other Statutory Considerations and Cumulative Impacts*), the Proposed Project would not include any new homes or businesses; therefore, it would not directly induce substantial population growth. The Proposed Project, on its own, would not extend electrical distribution service to new areas such that it would indirectly induce population growth. However, the Proposed Project, with buildout of the reasonably foreseeable distribution components, would expand electric distribution service capacity to accommodate future anticipated growth in the Paso Robles Distribution Planning Area (DPA). Following completion of the Proposed Project, PG&E would be able to provide electricity more effectively to new applications (e.g., new homes and businesses).

City of Paso Robles planners expect strong industrial growth to occur north of SR 46 (in particular within the Golden Hill Industrial Park and directly south of Paso Robles Airport along Dry Creek Road) within the next 10 years, and a resurgence of residential growth south of SR 46 (NEET West and PG&E 2020). Overall, city planners estimate a nearly 50 percent increase in the population of Paso Robles by 2045 (NEET West and PG&E 2020; City of Paso Robles 2014; U.S. Census Bureau 2014). As such, while the Proposed Project, with buildout of the reasonably foreseeable distribution components, would serve the new growth anticipated by the city, it would not cause or result in this growth. The Proposed Project would accommodate the already anticipated growth. The Applicants have proposed to locate the substation at the Estrella Substation location in part to better accommodate the predicted growth areas. However,

placing the substation adjacent to the existing Templeton Substation (Alternative SE-1A: Templeton Substation Expansion—230/70 kV Substation) confers other advantages; refer to the discussion in Chapter 5, *Alternatives Analysis Summary and Comparison of Alternatives*, in Volume 1 of the FEIR. The commenter’s preference for locating the substation near the anticipated growth areas in Paso Robles is noted and will be shared with the CPUC’s decisionmakers. For the CPUC’s response to comments related to the Proposed Project need and consideration of alternatives, including the placement of the substation in relation to the areas of anticipated growth, please refer to Master Response 8.

#### **Response to Comment BA-6**

The comment expresses concern regarding the aesthetic impacts on South River Road and Santa Ysabel Ranch that would result from Alternative SE-PLR-2. In addition, the comment argues that Alternative SE-PLR-2 is not consistent with San Luis Obispo County’s General Plan because the General Plan identifies aesthetics as “one of the most important factors contributing to the County’s ‘community character.’” The EIR provides an analysis of the aesthetic impacts of Alternative SE-PLR-2, including consideration of the General Plan goals and policies related to aesthetics (see FEIR, Volume 2, Appendix A, *Local Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Plans*). The EIR acknowledges that “much of the length of Alternative SE-PLR-2 passes through what may be considered oak-covered hillsides, as identified in the City of Paso Robles General Plan, which are considered scenic resources or vistas” (FEIR, Volume1, page 4.1-53). The EIR concludes that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would have significant and unavoidable aesthetic impacts (FEIR, Volume 1, pp. 4.1-52 to 4.1-54). The comment does not introduce any evidence that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would have new significant undisclosed impacts.

#### **Response to Comment BA-7**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no response is required. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC’s decisionmakers.

**Letter BB: Jordan Glenn (January 8, 2021)****Letter BB**

January 8, 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,

BB-1 I am passionately opposed to the S. River Route Alternative for the following reasons:

- BB-2 1) Located entirely within a High Fire Hazard Zone, the placement of these power lines are an accident waiting to happen. California's fire season has become unrelenting, and construction such as this would inevitably prove disastrous.
- BB-3 2) Electricity lines have been implicated in many fires. These specific ones, PG&E transmission lines, were responsible for hundreds of thousands of burned acres and many lost lives during both the Camp Fire & Kincadee Fire.
- BB-4 3) Golden Eagles make their home in the wildlife corridor of S. River Road. If any eagles fly into these power lines, they could face serious injury or death. Additionally, the construction would lead to irreparable loss of habitat for these majestic animals.
- BB-5 4) Santa Ysabel Ranch, and the areas around it, are sites of cultural discovery that eligible for the Nation Register of Historic Places. Numerous Chumash and Salinan artifacts have been found throughout the area, one of which lies exactly in the path of the proposed route. It would be shameful to destroy precious historical sites such as these.

BB-6 I request that you reconsider putting power lines along S. River Road. Doing so would put many lives at risk, decimate the natural wildlife, and ruin sites of cultural heritage.

Sincerely,



Jordan Glenn  
 2464 Battering Rock Rd.  
 Templeton, Ca. 93465  
 949-306-2810 Cell

**Response to Comment BB-1**

The commenter provides an introduction to the remainder of their comment letter expressing opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BB-2**

The comment expresses concerns regarding increased fire risk associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2 given that the route would be located in a High Fire Hazard Zone. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BB-3**

The comment expresses concerns regarding wildfire from the Proposed Project's construction. Please refer to Response to Comment BB-2 and Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BB-4**

The comment expresses concern over impacts to the golden eagles that are located near Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to comments related to golden eagle, see Master Response 9.

**Response to Comment BB-5**

This comment expresses concern regarding potential impacts to cultural resources and historical sites, noting that numerous Chumash and Salinan artifacts have been found throughout the Santa Ysabel Ranch area. The commenter's concerns about destroying cultural sites are addressed in the EIR; refer to Section 4.5, "Cultural Resources," in Volume 1 of the FEIR. As described in Section 4.5, no Native American archaeological sites are known to exist along the Alternative SE-PLR-2 route. However, the area is considered sensitive for Native American resources, and such resources could be revealed during construction. (FEIR, Volume 1, Sections 4.4.4 and 4.5.4.) Unanticipated discovery of cultural resources during construction of Alternative SE-PLR-2 is addressed under APM CUL-3 (Inadvertent Discoveries) and Mitigation Measure CR-1 (CPUC Enhancements to APMs CUL 1, CUL 2, CUL 3, CUL 5, and CUL 6). These measures would require that all construction work within 50 feet of a discovery cease, and the principal investigator be consulted to assess the find.

**Response to Comment BB-6**

This comment is noted. The commenter's concerns related to human health and safety, biological resources, and cultural resources are addressed in Responses to Comments BB-2 through BB-5. The comment requests decisionmakers remove Alternative SE-PLR-2 from consideration. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Letter BC: Nancy Glenn (January 8, 2021)****Letter BC**

January 8, 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,

- BC-1 | I am extremely opposed to the proposed S. River Route Alternative for the following reasons:
- BC-2 |     1) Fires have been ravaging California for decades and have only become more and more destructive as of late. The proposed route, and its accompanying substation, lie entirely inside a High Fire Hazard Zone. High voltage power lines hardly seem like a safe thing to install in an area filled with homes and large amounts of dry vegetation.
- BC-3 |     2) Power lines are very temperamental pieces of equipment and, as such, could trigger a wildfire during their construction and cause unspeakable amounts of damage to homes both in Santa Ysabel Ranch and along River Road.
- BC-4 |     3) S. River Road is a known wildlife corridor that is home to majestic Golden Eagles. Power lines such as these would not only be destructive for their homes, but the lines themselves could injure or kill eagles.
- BC-5 |     4) S. River Road is home to quite a number of Heritage Oak Trees, many of which would be destroyed in the construction. These trees have been there for generations and are an important part of the landscape.
- BC-6 | Please, for the sake of our safety and natural beauty: do not install any power lines along S. River Road.

Sincerely,

  
 Nancy Glenn  
 2464 Battering Rock Rd.  
 Templeton, Ca. 93465  
 714-420-2274 Cell

**Response to Comment BC-1**

The commenter provides an introduction to the remainder of their comment letter expressing opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BC-2**

The comment expresses concern regarding increased fire risk associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2 given that the alignment would be located in a High Fire Hazard Zone. For the CPUC's response to concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BC-3**

The comment expresses concerns regarding wildfire from the Proposed Project's construction. Please refer to Response to Comment BC-2 and Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BC-4**

The comment expresses concern over impacts to the golden eagles that are located near Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to comments related to golden eagle, see Master Response 9.

**Response to Comment BC-5**

The comment expresses concern over impacts to the heritage oaks that are located near Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to comments related to heritage oak trees, see Master Response 10.

**Response to Comment BC-6**

The comment requests decisionmakers remove Alternative SE-PLR-2 from consideration. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.



**Letter BD: John Grant (January 14, 2021)**

**Letter BD**

**From:** [John Grant](#)  
**To:** [estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com](mailto:estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com)  
**Subject:** Detail of Estrella Substation Project Path from River Road  
**Date:** Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:25:40 PM

---

BD-1 [ I live in Traditions at River Oaks, a 55+ community of 210 single family homes located in Paso Robles, California. Certain of those homes are situated on Robie Court. Will you please confirm that the lines connecting the proposed Estrella Substation to the 70 kV line along River Road do not cross any of the properties on Robie Court nor the land between Robie Court and River Road? Traditions at River Oaks Community Association, Inc., owns the land between Robie Court and River Road.

Thank you.

John Grant  
President, Traditions at River Oaks Community Association, Inc.  
jwgrant99@charter.net  
Cell: 303-748-9734

**Response to Comment BD-1**

This comment requests clarification as to the Proposed Project alignment route, in relation to a community of single-family homes located in Paso Robles, California (Traditions at River Oaks Community). As detailed in the EIR and depicted in Figure 2-6 (see FEIR, Volume 1, Chapter 2, *Project Description*), the Proposed Project 70 kV route would be constructed north of Traditions and the River Oaks Community and Golf Course in a westerly-easterly direction, parallel to Buena Vista Drive. The alignment would be located on the northern side of Clubhouse Drive as it approaches River Road. At River Road, the Proposed Project's new 70 kV power line segment would interconnect with the existing San Miguel-Paso Robles 70 kV power line. While the alignment would not directly cross properties on Robie Court, it would be located adjacent to the community. For additional information related to the distance between individual properties and the Proposed Project and alternatives, an interactive web map can be viewed at the following website:

<https://horizonh2o.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=2797fd90d3db4a3f8c6a287da3d20e9c>.

**Letter BE: William Hawkes (January 21, 2021)**

**Letter BE**

TO: California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)  
 RE: Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project  
 ATTN: Robert Peterson, CPUC  
 C/o Tom Engels, Horizon Water and Environment  
 400 Capital Mall  
 Suite 2500  
 Sacramento, Ca. 95814

FROM: William Hawkes  
 1808 Willowbank Ln.  
 Paso Robles, Ca. 93446  
 (805) 610-0341

BE-1

Thank you for this opportunity to weigh in on my concerns about the proposed project. The power lines run next to our homes in the Riverbank subdivision. This is not my first letter to the CPUC about my safety concerns. In the past, PG&E claimed they did not need to submit to an environmental review when upgrading because the power lines have been in place for over a 100 years. In my letter to the California Public Utilities Commissioner, I pointed out that while this may be true, the power poles were moved when the Riverbank Subdivision was developed. The Poles were moved from a then safe undeveloped area on the east side of South River Road to the current area next to our homes. San Luis Obispo County maps show where the power poles were located and on the revised maps shows where they are currently located. I purchased the related certified maps, stamped by the county that show the power poles before and after they were moved.

BE-2

My concerns are many, including but not limited to aesthetics, but more importantly safety, including traffic accidents involving power poles and electromagnetic fields (EMF) emissions. The transmission line on South River Road is also next to a Senior Citizen Medical Residence that has been approved by the City of Paso Robles for development.

BE-3

In the past, the Paso Robles City attorney has been involved with the safety and aesthetics concerns voiced by citizens that complained at many City Council meetings. Questions: What are the current EMF levels emitted from the power lines? When we are in our pool, just 15 feet from the lines, or sleeping in our beds, what level of EMF's are we exposed to? As the city continues to grow, how much will the EMF levels increase?

BE-4

I have requested this information from PG&E in the past with no response from them. How about answers to the questions now?

BE-5

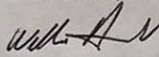
When the California Public Utilities Commissioner responded to me in a letter, he said, "The CPUC is very concerned about EMF emissions". I hope this is still true today.

BE-6

Years ago a PG&E representative offered me what he called a complimentary \$500.00 payout for a 20 foot easement on my property. When I asked him, if I were to agree, what restrictions within the easement will I have? He said, "You cannot build or install a swimming pool. He told me, "PG&E will get the easement even if you do not agree". I did not agree. Since that time, we have installed an in ground swimming pool with city permits. PG&E does not have an easement on my property. Safety of the citizens should be a primary consideration in an already developed residential area.

BE-7

I am opposed to increasing power through the existing power lines that will increase EMF levels. I am opposed to taller power poles made from steel that will make our neighborhood look like an industrial area, or any other modifications that will make a currently bad situation even worse.



William Hawkes

August 20, 2018

C/C Mayor Steven W. Martin, City El Paso De Robles

**Text Message and Photographs Submitted February 5, 2021:** Accident, power pole closest to my house a few years ago, please submit with my letter to CPUC. William Hawkes







**Response to Comment BE-1**

This comment expresses general safety concerns related to the location of the “proposed project”; however, based on the commenter’s address, it appears that they are commenting on Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. In particular, the commenter expresses concern as it relates to the distance of proposed facilities to the Riverbank Subdivision and nearby residential communities. The CPUC acknowledges the commenter’s concerns related to impacts to neighboring residential communities. The CPUC cannot comment on past PG&E projects.

**Response to Comment BE-2**

The commenter expresses concerns with respect to Alternative SE-PLR-2’s impacts on aesthetics, traffic hazards involving power pole lines, and EMF emissions. The commenter did not provide specific concerns regarding these environmental resource topics for which a specific response can be provided. For information related to potential adverse impacts to aesthetics, the commenter is advised to review Section 4.1, “Aesthetics,” in Volume 1 of this FEIR. Also, please refer to Master Response 3 for a response to comments regarding aesthetics. For information related to potential adverse impacts to human health and safety, the commenter is advised to review Section 4.9, “Hazards and Hazardous Materials.” For information related to potential adverse impacts on transportation and roadways, the commenter is advised to review Section 4.17, “Transportation.” The environmental analysis included in each resource section of the EIR includes detailed discussion of potential adverse impacts from the Proposed Project and alternatives, and where appropriate, prescribes mitigation measures to reduce impacts.

For the CPUC’s response to comments and concerns related EMF, see Master Response 2.

The CPUC acknowledges existing and projected residential development located along South River Road. The proposed senior living facility along South River Road was included in the list of reasonably foreseeable future projects in Table 6-2 (see Project No. 2) in Chapter 6, *Other Statutory Considerations and Cumulative Impacts*, page 6-8, in Volume 1 of the FEIR. This development is also shown on Figure 6-1 within Chapter 6. Senior living complexes, such as this one, were considered sensitive receptors in the analysis included in Section 4.3, “Air Quality,” in Volume 1 of the FEIR.

**Response to Comment BE-3**

This comment asks about current EMF levels emitted from power lines near the commenter’s residence. As described on page 2-121 in Volume 1 of this FEIR, and included in Table 2-13, power lines are a source of non-ionizing radiation, characterized by low- to mid-frequency radiation, which is generally perceived as harmless due to its lack of potency. With respect to EMF, Hertz (Hz) values reflect the rate at which electric and magnetic fields change their direction each second. In the U.S., electric transmission lines typically operate at 60 Hz, which is considered an extremely low frequency. By comparison, mobile phones operate at between 1.9 and 2.2 billion Hz (gigahertz), while X-rays operate at upwards of  $30 \times 10^{19}$  Hz (National Cancer Institute 2020). For the CPUC’s response to concerns related to potential adverse effects of EMF to human health, see Master Response 2.

This comment also asks how EMF levels would increase as the City of Paso Robles continues to grow. Because CPUC does not consider EMF to be an environmental issue in the context of

CEQA, the CPUC cannot comment as to how and/or whether EMF levels would change in response to anticipated growth in the City of Paso Robles.

**Response to Comment BE-4**

The commenter states they have posed these questions to PG&E but received no response. The CPUC cannot comment on previous communications held between the commenter and PG&E. Responses to the commenters' questions are provided here in these responses to comments.

**Response to Comment BE-5**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. Nevertheless, the comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers. Section 2.9.3 of FEIR, Volume 1, provides background information on a CPUC-initiated investigation that previously explored approaches to potential mitigation measures for reducing public health impacts and relevant development of policies, procedures and regulations regarding EMF. Please also refer to Master Response 2.

**Response to Comment BE-6**

The CPUC cannot comment on previous communications held between the commenter and PG&E, individual property ownership and right-of-way easements, or city-issued permits for private residential developments. The commenter's general concerns regarding the Proposed Project are noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BE-7**

The commenter's opposition to the Proposed Project, including potential increase of EMF levels and taller steel poles, is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers. In response to concerns related to EMF levels, see Master Response 2. In response to concerns relating to aesthetics impacts of taller poles, please refer to Master Response 3. In addition, the FEIR provides an analysis of aesthetics impacts of taller poles in Section 4.1.5 of FEIR, Volume 1.



**Letter BF: Dale Heryford (January 9, 2021)****Letter BF**

January 9, 2021

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


**RE: OPPOSITION TO SE-PLR-2, TEMPLETON / SO. RIVER ROUTE ALTERNATIVE**

Dear Dr. Engels,

BF-1

We believe there are other, more viable, options for the location of the high-powered lines proposed by the CPUC that would run through Santa Ysabel Ranch. We have limited access into and egress out of the development and the proposal to locate high-power lines along South River Road could block our exits in case of an emergency. Live lines could be down or towers could collapse. This would seem to be an unreasonable risk for you to even consider when our safety is of extreme importance. We ask you to object to the South River Road alternative for these proposed power lines.

(NAME AND ADDRESS)

  
2488 BATTERING ROCK ROAD  
TEMPLETON, CA. 93465

**Response to Comment BF-1**

This comment expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route and argues there are “other, more viable options.” The comment also expresses concern about the potential for adverse impacts to evacuation routes/ability for Santa Ysabel Ranch residents in the event of a wildfire or another emergency associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2. For a response to concerns regarding evacuation routes, please refer to Master Response 6. For a response to concerns regarding earthquake impacts, please refer to Master Response 1. The commenter’s opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 is noted and will be shared with the CPUC’s decisionmakers.

**Letter BG: Michelle Heryford (January 9, 2021)**

Letter BG

January 9, 2021

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

**RE: OPPOSITION TO SE-PLR-2, TEMPLETON / SO. RIVER ROUTE ALTERNATIVE**

Dear Dr. Engels,

BG-1

We believe there are other, more viable, options for the location of the high-powered lines proposed by the CPUC that would run through Santa Ysabel Ranch. We have limited access into and egress out of the development and the proposal to locate high-power lines along South River Road could block our exits in case of an emergency. Live lines could be down or towers could collapse. This would seem to be an unreasonable risk for you to even consider when our safety is of extreme importance. We ask you to object to the South River Road alternative for these proposed power lines.

(NAME AND ADDRESS)

Michelle M. Heryford  
2488 BATTERING BOLL ROAD  
TEMPLETON, CA. 93465

**Response to Comment BG-1**

This comment letter is an exact duplicate of Letter BF. Therefore, please refer to Response to Comment BF-1.

**Letter BH: Jeff Hevert (March 4, 2021)**

**Letter BH**

---

**Julie Allison**

**From:** Tom Engels <tom@horizonh2o.com> on behalf of Tom Engels  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 04, 2021 11:25 AM  
**To:** Patrick Donaldson; Julie Allison; Carley Dutra  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to CPUC & Horizon Water re: Estrella Substation and Transmission Expansion

Another comment letter.

---

**From:** Jeffrey Hevert <jhevert@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:23 AM  
**To:** [estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com](mailto:estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter to CPUC & Horizon Water re: Estrella Substation and Transmission Expansion

Mr. Peterson,

BH-1 | Please see my below correspondence with Steven Shoemaker who advised I reach out to you. Even though the deadline has passed, we are requesting to be added to the Public Comment section of the draft EIR report. We were not informed of this project until after the 2/22 deadline had passed and with the proposed route passing directly through our parcel have a large personal stake in the outcome. Please advise.

Best,  
 Jeffrey Hevert

----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** Jeffrey Hevert <jhevert@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Mar 1, 2021 at 11:15 AM  
**Subject:** Letter to CPUC & Horizon Water re: Estrella Substation and Transmission Expansion  
**To:** <[steven.shoemaker@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:steven.shoemaker@cpuc.ca.gov)>

Steven,

BH-2 | I received your contact information via Allen Bowman, an attorney representing another property owner affected by the current proposed route of this project.

BH-3 | My wife and I purchased our property 4374 Union Rd, Paso Robles in August of 2019. At the time we were unaware of this ongoing project, nor was it disclosed to us by the realtors or previous owners. Since that time we have been working on a conditional use permit (CUP) with land use planners and the count of San Luis Obispo for a winery and 10 incidental campsites for guests to our area. The process has been costly, time consuming, and arduous. Not once was this project mentioned after 18 months of costly hurdles required by the county for biologist reports, archeologists, engineers, traffic surveys, and more.

BH-4 | The current proposed route of the 70kv 105' transmission lines passes directly through our property, between our main house and guest house, and obstructs nearly all of our SW, W, and NW facing views. The proposed route would cross over our main entrance, driveway, and run extremely close to our front door. The route will also place the power lines directly in front of our winery views. This project will significantly lower our property value, potential future earnings of our business, obstruct our views, diminish our quality of life, and frankly crushes our family's dreams of building a sustainable business.

1

BH-5 | We learned of this project via a City of Paso Robles notice of a city council meeting on this topic. The meeting was 1/19/2021 and we received the notice after the fact. The notice was sent to our Los Angeles residence, despite the fact that we have forwarded our mail and have resided at 4374 Union Rd. in Paso Robles for a year. Because of the late notice, we have also missed the opportunity to submit a formal letter to the draft EIR.

BH-6 | I am writing to you because **we would like to go on the record opposing this current route**. Not only for our personal reasons, because we aren't the only ones affected in any outcome, but because this proposed route is not even the best environmental option per the EIR. This proposed route affects more local residents than other proposed routes. This proposed route will be an eyesore and blight on our area for generations to come. This area consists of small family ranches, family wineries, and hard working people looking to earn a living from their land.

BH-7 | We have spent our life's savings on this conditional use permit and future plans for our family winery. We would never have made this decision, to risk it all, had we known about 105' transmission lines passing directly through our property. We tried to follow the rules, we listened to our county planners and county officials and performed all of the due diligence required of a permit and our "disturbance" to our land that had to be mitigated by county code - only to learn that EIRs and codes are only recommendations when it comes to large scale utility projects that potentially serve the greater public.

BH-8 | Please let us know how we might be added to the public record of the EIR and future CPUC hearings. We are the little guy in this situation, and if you take a look at the proposed route heading right past our house, one that may be affected disproportionately by the outcome without a voice.

BH-9 | Thank you for your time.

Best,  
Jeff

--

---

Jeffrey Hevert  
m: 1.310.460.8505  
e: [jhevert@gmail.com](mailto:jhevert@gmail.com)

--

---

Jeffrey Hevert  
m: 1.310.460.8505  
e: [jhevert@gmail.com](mailto:jhevert@gmail.com)

**Response to Comment BH-1**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no response is required. Nevertheless, the comment is noted. As requested, the commenter's comments on the DEIR received after the public comment deadline, and responses to those comments, are included here in the FEIR.

**Response to Comment BH-2**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no response is required. Nevertheless, the comment is noted.

**Response to Comment BH-3**

The commenter provides information about purchasing their property and their discussions with the County of San Luis Obispo for a conditional use permit for a winery and campsite project. This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no response is required. The CPUC cannot comment on communications held between the commenter and the County of San Luis Obispo. The comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BH-4**

The comment expresses concern about the aesthetic impacts of the Proposed Project because the commenter asserts that the proposed 70 kV power line route would cross the commenter's property and would interfere with the property's south, west, and northwest facing views, including winery views. The commenter additionally expresses concerns with the aesthetics impacts affecting the commenter's business. In addition, the commenter expresses concerns about impacts to the commenter's property values. The commenter's opposition to the Proposed Project is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers. The FEIR discusses aesthetics impacts of the Proposed Project in Section 4.1.5 of Volume 1. For a response to comments regarding aesthetics impacts, please refer to Master Response 3. For response to comments related to potential for the commenter's property value to decrease, see Master Response 7.

**Response to Comment BH-5**

The CPUC provided noticing for public meetings on the DEIR by mail to a broad range of stakeholders including state, federal, and local regulatory agencies and jurisdictions, non-profit organizations, and property owners in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Mailing addresses were obtained using available parcel ownership records. The CPUC has accepted several comment letters, including this letter, received after conclusion of the DEIR comment period and has provided responses to comments.

**Response to Comment BH-6**

The commenter expresses opposition to the Proposed Project route, argues the route is not the best environmental option and that it affects more local residents than others. This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no response is required. Nevertheless, the comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BH-7**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no response is required. Nevertheless, the CPUC cannot comment on communications held between the commenter and the County of San Luis Obispo regarding permitting specific to the commenter's winery project. The comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BH-8**

As stated above, the CPUC has accepted these comments as part of the public record for this EIR. To request additional information, or to be added to the mailing list for the EIR process, please contact us by email, fax, or phone at:

Email: [estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com](mailto:estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com)  
Fax: (510) 350-3592  
Toll-free voicemail: (844) 211-7510

Mail: Trevor Pratt, CPUC  
c/o Tom Engels  
Horizon Water and Environment  
1 Kaiser Plaza, Suite 340  
Oakland, CA 94612

Additional information on tracking in the non-CEQA aspects of the proceeding may be found at:

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/about-cpuc/divisions/news-and-public-information-office/public-advisors-office/tracking-issues-of-interest>

Additional information and guidance on participating in the non-CEQA aspects of the proceeding may be found at:

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/proceedings-and-rulemaking/cpuc-public-participation-hearings/methods-for-becoming-a-party-to-a-proceeding>

The CPUC's Public Advisor's Office is available to provide additional guidance on participating in the non-CEQA aspects of the proceeding, and may be reached at:

E-mail: [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)  
Telephone: 1-866-849-8390

**Response to Comment BH-9**

This comment is noted.



**Letter BI: Anne Hilbert (January 11, 2021)**

**Letter BI**

January 11, 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:

BI-1 I live at 2925 Warm Springs Lane, Templeton, CA 93465, which is located in Santa Ysabel Ranch, and I am writing in opposition to the South River Route Alternative for a number of reasons.

BI-2 The most important reason is fire hazard. As you know, the South River Route runs for a significant portion along South River Road, a narrow two-lane road with numerous houses on either side of it. The City of Paso Robles developed a lengthy risk assessment of potential local hazards and mitigation strategies for same in its February 2016 “Local Hazard Mitigation Plan” (the “City Plan”). The City Plan designated the land on either side of South River Road as being a “high” fire danger. Significantly, this same level of fire threat is not present along other proposed routes for the new transmission lines. Our house, like those of at least a dozen of our neighbors, is located on a small dead-end road (Warm Springs Lane) that parallels South River Road, and to leave our lot we must use Warm Springs Lane. Under the South River Route proposal, transmission poles would be located between the small area between Warm Springs Lane and South River Road.

BI-3 Our house, again like those of at least a dozen of our neighbor, backs up onto a steep multiacre canyon which is full of hundreds of oak trees and brush. There is no way to access this canyon in a vehicle other than by driving on Warm Springs Lane. Our house, again like those of at least a dozen of our neighbors, also frequently experiences high winds, as we are at the edge of the Templeton Gap. If transmission lines were routed along South River Road, the CPUC would be placing transmission lines in a high-fire zone, with significant fuel a couple hundred yards away, and in the event of downed transmission lines and a transmission-line caused fire, cutting off access to the only escape route—South River Road—thereby trapping the residents of Warm Springs Lane between the fire and an enormous fuel source. And once a fire reached the canyon behind our houses, many, many other homes would also be likely to burn. Given the fires of the past few years and our continuing climate challenges, this seems like an incredible risk that the CPUC would be incredibly foolish to run. The fact that the City of Paso Robles has explicitly recognized the high risk of fire in this area, that PB&E made Santa Ysabel Ranch bury its lines when the

BI-4

BI-4  
cont.

community was being built, and that residents of Santa Ysabel Ranch are forced to buy additional fire insurance under the California FAIR Plan makes it clear that the risk of fire along South River Road is significant and well-known, and for the CPUC to disregard such a risk is unthinkable.

BI-5

Secondly, the South River Route alternative would run poles and lines in a location far from the actual power need, and in violation of “non-wire” policy. It is my understanding that the additional power is needed for anticipated growth in North Paso Robles. It is also my understanding that California policy promotes “non-wire” alternatives. To build enormous poles and lines for power needed in another part of town—which is closer to other alternatives—and to violate the “non-wire” policy in such a clearly dangerous location makes no sense.

BI-6

Lastly, the South River Route alternative would pose a tremendous threat to local wildlife. Santa Ysabel Ranch is home to Golden Eagles, who have nested for a number of years on the property, and is visited by Bald Eagles and other migratory birds. The deleterious impact of transmission line construction and of charged lines to such wildlife is well known.

BI-7

For the sake of public safety—to avoid creating a threat that could result in the loss of hundreds of lives and millions of dollars of property—please do not put a transmission line along South River Road.

Sincerely,



Anne M. Hilbert  
2925 Warm Springs Lane  
Templeton, CA 93465  
(805) 239-1823

**Response to Comment BI-1**

The commenter provides an introduction to the remainder of the comment letter and expresses the commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route, which is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BI-2**

The comment asserts that Alternative SE-PLR-2 should not be selected because it is in a High Fire Hazard Zone. The comment also notes that the City of Paso Robles prepared a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for identification and mitigation of potential hazards in the City of Paso Robles. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4. In addition, please refer to Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, in Section 4.9, "Hazards and Hazardous Materials," in Volume 1 of the FEIR, which requires HWT and PG&E to prepare and implement fire prevention and management plans.

**Response to Comment BI-3**

The comment expresses concern about the potential for adverse impacts to evacuation routes/ability in the event of a wildfire associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding potential impacts to evacuation routes, please refer to Master Response 6. The comment also reiterates concerns related to fire risk from transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2. Please refer to Master Response 4. The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BI-4**

The comment reiterates the commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 based on the high fire risk in the area, alleges the utility company "made Santa Ysabel Ranch bury its lines when the community was being built", and asserts that residents of Santa Ysabel Ranch have been forced to buy additional fire insurance. The EIR discusses potential wildfire impacts for the Proposed Project and its alternatives in Section 4.20.4 in Volume of the FEIR. The EIR found that the risk of wildfire for Alternative SE-PLR-2 would be potentially significant but that Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, which would require preparation and implementation of a fire prevention and management plan, would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. For the CPUC's response to comments related to fire risk, please refer to Master Response 4. Additionally, for the CPUC's response to comments related to potential impacts on property values and insurance, please refer to Master Response 7.

**Response to Comment BI-5**

This comment questions the location of facilities under Alternative SE-PLR-2 far from the anticipated growth area in north Paso Robles. The comment also argues that the alternative would violate a California policy promoting "non-wire" alternatives. For the CPUC's response to these comments, please refer to Master Response 8.

**Response to Comment BI-6**

The comment expresses concern over threats to wildlife, migratory birds, golden eagles and bald eagles from Alternative SE-PLR-2. Section 4.4, "Biological Resources," in Volume 1 of the

FEIR, provides discussion of applicable mitigation measures that will be implemented for Alternative SE-PLR-2 (see pages 4.4-70 to 4.4-72) to avoid or minimize impacts on the biological resources mentioned in the comment. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would avoid or minimize potential impacts to special-status species during construction of Alternative SE-PLR-2. If special-status plant species are discovered during pre-construction surveys and cannot be avoided, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2 would compensate for these adverse impacts. Potential indirect effects on habitat and species during construction (e.g., erosion and sedimentation, fugitive dust, release of hazardous materials) would be minimized through implementation of APMs HYDRO-1, HAZ-1, GEN-1, and AIR-3 and Mitigation Measure BIO-1. Mitigation Measure BIO-3 would be implemented to minimize impacts to golden eagles, by requiring that the power line follow APLIC guidelines for avian protection. For the CPUC's response to comments related to golden eagles, refer to Master Response 9.

**Response to Comment BI-7**

The comment expresses opposition to locating transmission lines on South River Road, citing public safety concerns. The comment does not state any specific concerns with regard to public safety. For a response to concerns regarding fire risk, please refer to Master Response 4. For the CPUC's response to comments relating to EMFs, please refer to Master Response 2. Master Response 6 provides a response to comments regarding emergency access and evacuation.

**Letter BJ: Stan Hilling (December 28, 2020)****Letter BJ**

December 28, 2020

Mr. Rob Peterson, CPUC  
 C/O Tom Engles, Ph.D.  
 Horizon Water and Environment, LLC  
 266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210  
 Oakland, CA 94610

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

Dear Dr. Engels,

BJ-1 | I oppose the S. River Road route alternative for the following detailed reasons:

BJ-2 | 1. **Wildlife Disturbance:** The SYR area has many unique and protected wildlife that will be severely disturbed and disrupted if enormous towers are erected on this route alongside the SYR acreage.

BJ-3 | 2. **Wildfire Danger:** The Templeton Substation and the South River Road alternative (SE-PLR-2) are both entirely situated within the high fire hazard zone as noted in the recently published EIR. Wildfires can blow from any and every direction into and across SYR. If high power transmission lines are paced alongside SRR and inside the SYR development, they will present a huge hazard to the SYR community should an accident occur because of the towers/high voltage lines.

BJ-4 | This has occurred with the same equipment in the Camp Fire that destroyed the Paradise, CA community. The potential loss of life and property in SYR make this alternative route a complete non-starter. South River Road (SRR) is the only escape route out of the SYR development and our road, Warm Springs Lane, parallels SRR and is adjacent to the proposed high power transmission line. Additionally, Warm Springs Lane ends in a cul-de-sac. If the poles and lines fail/fall, we the residents will be trapped without an alternative exit.

BJ-5 | 3. **Low Energy Requirement Area:** Our development is in unincorporated Templeton, where our power utility is provided. This is a low growth capacity area and as reported, requiring a very limited increase in power for future needs. These can be easily satisfied with non-high power transmission lines, using power-saving technologies the state of California promotes as the future path of energy development/storing/delivery.

BJ-6 | The immediate need and increased future demand for power is far greater for the developments planned east of Paso Robles.

BJ-7 | In the East Paso Robles area, there are wide open spaces and large low fire-hazard zones and flatter terrain. Therefore, it makes better sense to choose a location/alternative route adjacent to the area of development for any power needs to support future growth.

BJ-8

4. **High Risk Equipment:** SYR is heavily wooded with majestic 200+ year old blue and live oaks, and some (invasive) highly flammable eucalyptus trees. The topography near the proposed transmission lines at this alternative site is hilly. This combination of hills and densely wooded areas presents a high risk wildfire condition. Many homeowners insurers have refused to provide property insurance because of this zoning — without the complication of high power transmission lines inside/alongside the development.

BJ-9

These proposed high power transmission towers/lines are the same/similar equipment cited as cause in the 2018 Camp Fire and the 2019 Kincaid Fire. So, if this equipment fails/falls the whole SYR area is at immediate risk of being engulfed in a fire-wall without an escape route.

BJ-10

5. **Elderly and Disabled People:** The SYR community has many elderly residents and several are not as nimble, adaptable, cognitively sound and responsive in an emergency situation. My family unit includes an elder, with restrictive mobility. We would have extreme difficulty evacuating her swiftly, in the case of a fire or earthquake that might be additionally complicated with failing and falling towers and power lines. These added risks are so threatening to the safety of our elderly community I believe that this proposed route should be eliminated without further consideration.

BJ-11

6. **Earthquake - Fault Line:** The route proposed for the installation of these power lines in this alternative lies directly on top clearly defined fault lines. Therefore, it is folly logic to place these lines here; strongly suggest alternatives move ahead of this route.

BJ-12

7. **Aesthetics:** From the initial concept of the SYR development, planning and installation of all utilities were designed to be underground. This maintains the integrity of the rural setting and provides a safety feature not typical in many urban developments. The proposal to install these huge and ugly power lines and towers alongside and within the SYR development is completely counter to all that SYR has achieved in maintaining the aesthetics of the area. I believe that these towers should not be erected here, scarring the landscape.

BJ-13

For these principal seven reasons and many others noted in previous submissions and reports, I strongly urge you to eliminate the Templeton - South River Road option for this project.

Yours Sincerely,

*Stan Hilling*

Stan Hilling  
2785 WSL  
Templeton, CA 93465

**Response to Comment BJ-1**

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BJ-2**

The comment expresses concern that the wildlife located near Alternative SE-PLR-2 would be disturbed and "disrupted if enormous towers are erected alongside the SYR [Santa Ysabel Ranch] acreage". Section 4.4, "Biological Resources," in Volume 1 of the FEIR, provides discussion of applicable Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) and mitigation measures that will be implemented for Alternative SE-PLR-2 (see pages 4.4-70 to 4.4-72) to avoid or minimize impacts on the biological resources mentioned in the comment. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would avoid or minimize potential impacts to special-status species during construction of Alternative SE-PLR-2. If special-status plant species are discovered during pre-construction surveys and cannot be avoided, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2 would compensate for these adverse impacts. Potential indirect effects on habitat and species during construction (e.g., erosion and sedimentation, fugitive dust, release of hazardous materials) would be minimized through implementation of APMs HYDRO-1, HAZ-1, GEN-1, and AIR-3 and Mitigation Measure BIO-1. Mitigation Measure BIO-3 would be implemented to minimize impacts to golden eagles, by requiring that the power line follow APLIC guidelines for avian protection. Refer to Section 4.4, "Biological Resources," in Volume 1 of the FEIR for detailed discussion.

**Response to Comment BJ-3**

The comment expresses concern that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2 are located within the High Fire Hazard Zone and argues they would present a hazard to the nearby community. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BJ-4**

The comment expands upon the concerns from Comment BJ-3 with respect to wildfire danger, noting the Camp Fire in Paradise, California, and also expresses concern about the potential for adverse impacts to evacuation routes/ability in the event of a wildfire or another emergency associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding potential impacts to evacuation routes, please refer to Master Response 6. Please also see Master Response 4 regarding fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines.

**Response to Comment BJ-5**

The comment states that energy needs in the unincorporated Templeton area due to low growth expectations met with "non-high power transmission lines, using power-saving technologies." For the CPUC's response to comments regarding the Proposed Project need and consideration of alternatives, please refer to Master Response 8. As discussed therein, Alternative BS-2: Battery Storage to Address Distribution Objective and Alternative BS-3: Behind-the-Meter Solar and Battery Storage are under consideration for meeting the electrical *distribution* needs in the greater Paso Robles area and would be paired with Alternative SE-PLR-2 as part of Alternative Combination #4. However, the 70 kV power line under Alternative SE-

PLR-2 would still be needed to meet the electrical *transmission* system needs identified by the CAISO.

**Response to Comment BJ-6**

The comment states the immediate need and increased future demand for power is greater for developments planned east of the City of Paso Robles. Please refer to Master Response 8 for a discussion regarding the proposed Project's goals and objectives considered in the Project's transmission line route and alternatives.

**Response to Comment BJ-7**

This comment recommends consideration of the East Paso Robles area, where the commenter states there are, "wide open spaces and large low fire-hazard zones and flatter terrain." This comment also recommends choosing a location adjacent to the area of development. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BJ-8**

This comment reiterates and expands upon concerns related to oak and eucalyptus trees and the characteristics of the Santa Ysabel Ranch area that the commenter states presents a high risk wildfire condition. The commenter also notes homeowner difficulty in obtaining property insurance. Please refer to Master Response 4 for a discussion of the fire risk associated with the Proposed Project. For comments related to property insurance, please refer to Master Response 7.

**Response to Comment BJ-9**

The comment expresses concern that transmission lines associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2 are similar to those related to the 2018 Camp Fire and 2019 Kincaid Fire and alleges the surrounding area would be at risk of wildfire and also reiterates concerns regarding evacuation routes. Please refer to Master Responses 4 and 6.

**Response to Comment BJ-10**

This comment expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 because elderly and disabled people living in the surrounding community would be unable to respond swiftly in an emergency situation (e.g., fire or earthquake). For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to potential impacts on evacuation routes, please refer to Master Response 6. For response to comments related to the Rinconada Fault Line's proximity to Alternative SE-PLR-2, including the resiliency of the infrastructure to withstand a large earthquake, see Master Response 1.

**Response to Comment BJ-11**

This comment notes that the proposed alignment under Alternative SE-PLR-2 "lies directly on top [sic] clearly defined fault lines," and argues that it is faulty logic to place the lines there and states support for alternatives rather than this route. The CPUC's response to comments related to the Rinconada Fault Line's proximity to Alternative SE-PLR-2, including the resiliency of the infrastructure to withstand a large earthquake, is provided in Master Response 1.



**Response to Comment BJ-12**

The comment expresses general concern regarding the aesthetic impacts that would result from Alternative SE-PLR-2 and argues underground installation of the transmission lines would maintain the integrity of the rural setting and provide a safety feature not typical in many urban developments. The EIR provides an analysis of the aesthetic impacts of Alternative SE-PLR-2. The EIR acknowledges that “much of the length of Alternative SE-PLR-2 passes through what may be considered oak-covered hillsides, as identified in the City of Paso Robles General Plan, which are considered scenic resources or vistas” (FEIR, Volume 1, p. 4.1-53). The EIR has concluded that Alternative SE-PLR-2, would have significant and unavoidable aesthetic impacts (FEIR, Volume 1, p. 4.1-53 to 4.1-54). Regarding the commenter’s preference for underground installation, the commenter does not specify how undergrounding provides a safety feature that would not be “typical in many urban environments.” With regard to the preference for undergrounding, please refer to Master Response 8. The commenter’s opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 is noted and will be shared with the CPUC’s decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BJ-13**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no response is required. Nevertheless, the comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC’s decisionmakers.

**Letter BK: Frederica Howell (January 8, 2021)****Letter BK**

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,

BK-1 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.

BK-2 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 Kincade (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.

BK-3 Second, **Santa Ysabel Ranch is home to at least one pair of Golden Eagles** who have nested successfully in a 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.

BK-4 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.

BK-5 Please reject the SE-PLR-2 Alternate to preserve public safety and our protected wildlife, as well as be fiscally responsible.

Sincerely,  
  
 Frederica Howell  
 2395 Warm Springs Lane  
 Templeton, CA 93465

**Response to Comment BK-1**

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative Combination #4, which includes Alternative SE-1A: Templeton Substation Expansion – 230/70 kV Substation and Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy and no response is required. Nevertheless, the comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BK-2**

The comment expresses concern regarding wildfire risk associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2 and about the potential for adverse impacts to evacuation routes in the event of a wildfire or another emergency associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2. For CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4. For CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to potential impacts to evacuation routes, please refer to Master Response 6. The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 is noted.

**Response to Comment BK-3**

The comment expresses concern over the construction of transmission lines and the impacts they would have on golden eagles and bald eagles along Alternative SE-PLR-2. For CPUC's response to comments related to golden eagles and bald eagles, refer to Master Response 9.

**Response to Comment BK-4**

This comment points out an error in Table 5-3 of the DEIR, which provides approximated cost calculations for the Proposed Project and alternative combinations. The comment notes that, under Footnote 3, the text erroneously refers to Alternative #3 instead of Alternative #4. CPUC appreciates the commenter's review of the DEIR and identification of this error. The error has been corrected in the FEIR, as shown in Volume 1 (Table 5-3) and provided in Chapter 4, *Revisions to the DEIR*.

This revision does not result in changes to environmental impact analyses or conclusions presented in the DEIR, and therefore, does not constitute significant new information that would trigger recirculation under CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5. Rather, the revisions serve to clarify and amplify the content of the DEIR.

**Response to Comment BK-5**

This comment encourages decisionmakers to reject Alternative SE-PLR-2 to preserve public safety and wildlife. The comment does not state specific concerns regarding public safety or wildlife. However, for a response to comments regarding EMFs, please refer to Master Response 2. For a response to comments regarding fire risk, please refer to Master Response 4. The EIR analyzes potential impacts to wildlife for the Alternative SE-PLR-2 in Section 4.4.4 of Volume 1 of this FEIR. In addition, please see Master Response 9 for comments regarding golden eagles.

**Letter BL: John Howell (January 8, 2021)****Letter BL**

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,

BL-1 | I oppose the above referenced Alternative for the Estrella Substation Project for the following reasons:

BL-2 | We live in Santa Ysabel Ranch and are in a County designated High Fire Hazard area as is the entire route of this Alternate. 70kV power transmission lines going down S. River Road approximately 200 feet from our front door greatly increases our risk of fire and decreases our ability to safely evacuate. Two out of the three exits from Santa Ysabel Ranch flow to S. River Road. The third is over 2 miles away and would be the single lane egress for potentially 142 houses.

BL-3 | S. River Road, between Neal Spring Rd. and Charolais, is a scenic area, dotted with many Heritage Oaks. The number of pylons required would destroy a large number of these oaks. It is also a desirable area in which to live. The building of this transmission line would have dramatic and negative impact on property values and resale potential. It is an unfair and needless burden to place on residents when alternatives like battery and thermal energy storage are options. In addition and as reported in Table 5-3 Cost Calculations, footnote 3, the upgrading of the Templeton Substation would be more expensive than the proposed project. This does not make fiscal sense.

BL-4 | Furthermore, Santa Ysabel Ranch is home to nesting Golden Eagles, visiting Bald Eagles, numerous pairs of Red-tailed Hawks and other protected raptors. These proposed transmission lines would have a severe impact on their movement and make the likelihood of electrocution very high.

BL-5 | Please reject the SE-PLR-2 Alternate.

Sincerely,

  
 John Howell  
 2395 Warm Springs Lane  
 Templeton, CA 93465

**Response to Comment BL-1**

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BL-2**

The comment expresses concern that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2 would increase fire risk, noting that the area is designated as a High Fire Hazard Zone. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

The comment also expresses concern about the potential for adverse impacts to evacuation routes/ability in the event of a wildfire associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2. For CPUC's response to these concerns, please refer to Master Response 6. The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 is noted.

**Response to Comment BL-3**

The comment states that the number of pylons that would be needed for Alternative SE-PLR-2 would destroy a large number of heritage oaks. The comment also asserts that the transmission line would have a dramatic and negative impact on property values and resale potential. For the CPUC's response to comments related to heritage oaks, refer to Master Response 10. For the CPUC's response to comments related to effects on property values, see Master Response 7.

The comment also expresses concern that Alternative Combination #4 would be more expensive than the Proposed Project when the cost to upgrade the Templeton Substation is factored in. This comment did not raise issues regarding EIR adequacy and no further response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers. Note that, as discussed in Response to Comment BK-4, there was a typographical error in Footnote 3 under Table 5-3 in the DEIR (the footnote should have referred to Alternative Combination #4 instead of Alternative Combination #3). This has been corrected in the FEIR.

**Response to Comment BL-4**

The comment states that the proposed transmission lines associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2 would have a severe impact on the movement of golden eagles, bald eagles, red-tailed hawks and other raptors as well as pose an electrocution risk. For the CPUC's response to comments related to golden eagles, refer to Master Response 9. This master response also provides discussion on mitigating impacts to other avian species.

**Response to Comment BL-5**

The commenter requests rejection of the Alternative SE-PLR-2. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Letter BM: Melinda Jensen (December 19, 2020)****Letter BM**

December 19, 2020

Mr. 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,

- BM-1 I own property in the Santa Ysabel Ranch development. I strongly oppose the South River Route Alternative for the following reasons:
- BM-2 I am concerned of the potential fire dangers caused by these transmission lines. South River Road is our only means of escape.
- BM-3 Putting transmission lines on or near a potential fault line is not good planning.
- BM-4 The electromagnetic field of the power lines create a detriment to health. Many of these lines are within 200 feet of homes. The recommended safety zone for humans is 800-1200 feet away from these high voltage lines.
- BM-5 These massive poles are flat out ugly and would ruin the beautiful country-side we cherish.
- BM-6 Our area is a wildlife migration path for golden eagles and bald eagles. There are several golden eagle nests in our neighborhood. These new lines increase the death of these cherished and protected birds by electrocution.
- BM-7 Let's do some forward thinking and put these power lines underground to avoid many of the impacts. Or better yet use battery or thermal storage.
- BM-8 Thank you for listening

Sincerely,



Melinda Jensen, Owner  
 2270 Lake Ysabel Road  
 Templeton CA 93465

Mailing Address: 11327 W Bakula Dr  
 Boise, ID 83709

cc: County Supervisor John Peschong  
 State Assemblyman Jordan Cunningham

**Response to Comment BM-1**

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. This comment does not raise issues concerning EIR adequacy and, thus, no response is required. Nevertheless, the comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BM-2**

The comment expresses concern that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2 would cause potential fire dangers. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

The comment also expresses concern about the potential for adverse impacts to evacuation routes/ability in the event of a wildfire associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding potential impacts to evacuation routes, please refer to Master Response 6.

**Response to Comment BM-3**

This comment asserts that putting transmission lines on or near a potential fault line is not good planning. For CPUC's response to comments related to the Rinconada Fault Line's proximity to Alternative SE-PLR-2, refer to Master Response 1.

**Response to Comment BM-4**

This comment expresses concerns regarding EMF exposure. The comment asserts that "the recommended safety zone for humans" is 800 to 1200 feet away from transmission lines. The comment does not cite a source for this information and, therefore, the CPUC cannot assess or verify its accuracy. For the CPUC's response to comments related to EMF and effects on human health, see Master Response 2.

**Response to Comment BM-5**

The comment expresses general concern regarding the aesthetic impacts that would result from Alternative SE-PLR-2. The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers. The commenter is also advised to review Section 4.1, "Aesthetics," in Volume 1 of this FEIR, pages 4.1-53 to 4.1-54, for the CPUC's analysis of aesthetic impacts for Alternative SE-PLR-2.

**Response to Comment BM-6**

The comment expresses concern over golden eagles and bald eagles and possible electrocutions with the power lines along Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to comments related to golden eagles and bald eagles, refer to Master Response 9.

**Response to Comment BM-7**

This comment argues that transmission lines should be placed underground to avoid impacts or battery or thermal storage should be utilized. Please refer to Master Response 8 for discussion of the Proposed Project need and consideration of alternatives.

**Response to Comment BM-8**

Thank you for your comment.



**Letter BN: James and Everileen Kelsey (December 18, 2020)****Letter BN**

December 18, 2020

Rob Peterson CPUC  
 C/O Engels  
 Horizon Water & Environment  
 266 Grand Ave #210  
 Oakland, CA 94610

SUBJECT: Opposition to SE-PLR-2  
 Templeton - So. River Road

Dear Dr. Engels

- BN-1 | I am writing to you to express my opposition to the South River  
 Alternative for the following reasons:
- BN-2 | I understand the reasons for expanding and updating our electrical  
 system. However, there are better ways of doing this program.
- BN-3 | First, lets come to the 21st century and place it under ground.  
 I know it would cost more however, would it really? When you  
 consider law suits and all of the legal issues.
- BN-4 | There is a host of other issues; transmission lines in fire  
 hazard area, fault lines, wild life such as Bald Eagles and  
 others, aging oak trees, health of local people, property  
 values (law suites) and the list goes on!
- BN-5 | You get the idea, this is not the proper method for this project.
- BN-6 | There Must Be A Better Way!

*Everileen Kelsey*  
 James & Everileen Kelsey  
 1445 Fire Rock Loop  
 Templeton, CA 93465

CC  
 County Supervisor Peschong  
 Mr. John Peschong  
 1055 Monterey St. Room D430  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

35th District Jordan Cunningham  
 1304 Broad St.  
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

**Response to Comment BN-1**

The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BN-2**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no response is required. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BN-3**

This comment argues that the CPUC should place the transmission line underground. The comment also argues that undergrounding may not be more expensive when considering the costs of lawsuits. For the CPUC's response to comments related to the Proposed Project need and consideration of alternatives, please refer to Master Response 8.

**Response to Comment BN-4**

This comment lists a number of issues, which the commenter finds problematic. Many of these are discussed in master responses, as follows:

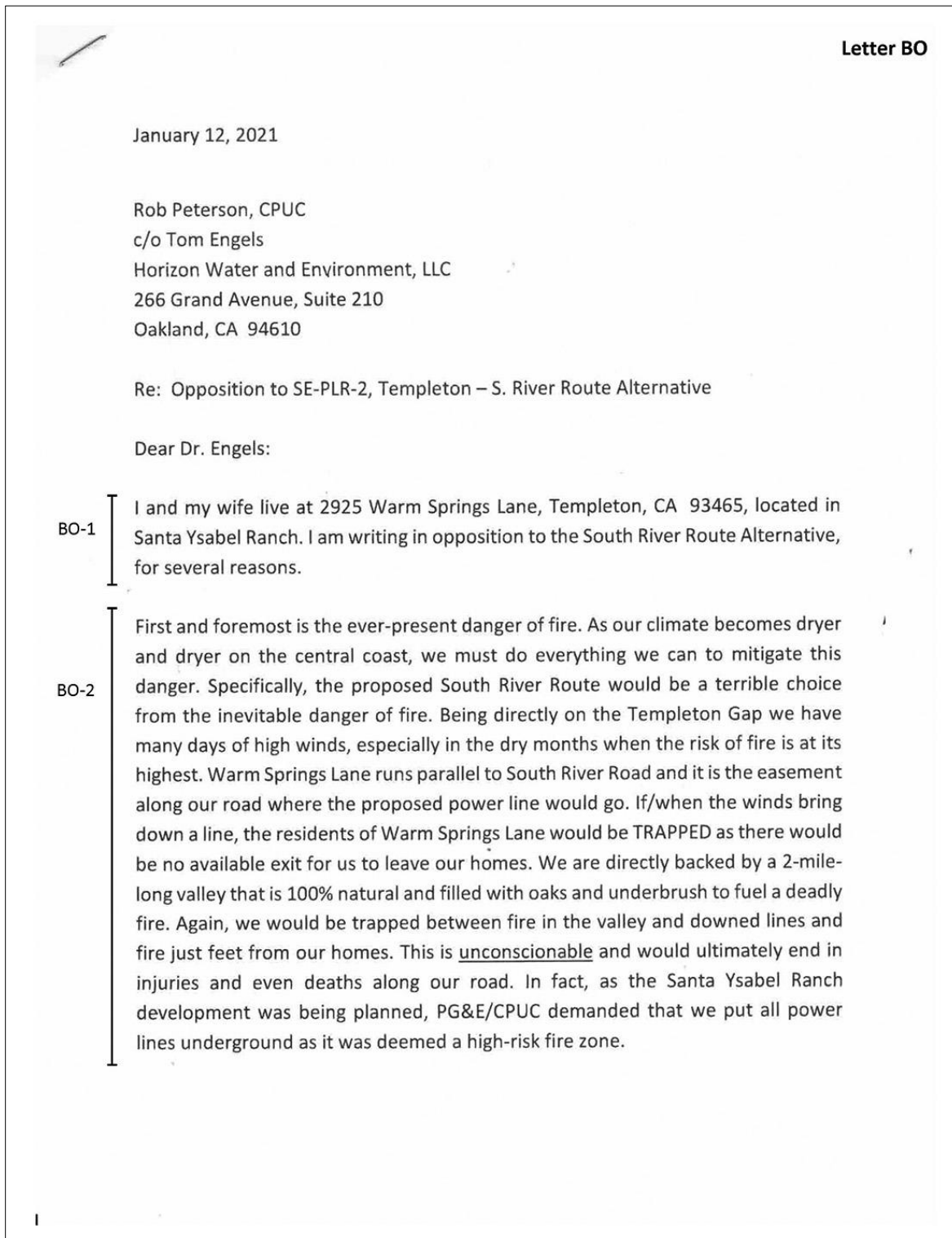
- Fire risk from transmission lines: please refer to Master Response 4.
- Proximity of the Rinconada Fault Line to Alternative SE-PLR-2: please refer to Master Response 1.
- Potential impacts on golden eagles: please refer to Master Response 9.
- Potential impacts on heritage oaks: please refer to Master Response 10.
- Potential impacts on human health: please refer to Master Response 2.
- Effects on property values: please refer to Master Response 7.

**Response to Comment BN-5**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BN-6**

This comment is noted.

**Letter BO: Douglas Kilgour (January 12, 2021)**

BO-3

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.

BO-4

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,



Douglas Kilgour  
2925 Warm Springs Road  
Templeton, CA 93465  
408-829-0155

**Response to Comment BO-1**

The commenter provides an introduction to the remainder of their comment letter expressing opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BO-2**

The comment expresses concern that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2 would increase fire risk, noting that the area is characterized by conditions that make it susceptible to wildfire. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

The comment also expresses concern about the potential for adverse impacts to evacuation routes/ability in the event of a wildfire or another emergency (downed lines) associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to these concerns, please refer to Master Response 6.

**Response to Comment BO-3**

The comment expresses concern over a golden eagle nest that is located less than half a mile from Alternative SE-PLR-2. The commenter also expresses concern for bald eagles and water fowl that "use the small lake behind our houses." For the CPUC's response to comments regarding golden eagles and bald eagles, see Master Response 9. In addition, please refer to Section 4.4.4 in Volume 1 of the FEIR, which analyzes impacts to special status bird species. APM BIO-1 (Conduct Pre Construction Survey(s) for Special Status Species and Sensitive Resource Areas) and Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (Actions to Further Avoid and Minimize Impacts to Special Status Species) would require pre-construction surveys, which would identify special-status bird species that may be present on or near work sites. If work is scheduled during the nesting season (commencing January 15 for golden eagle and February 1 for all other birds through August 31), APM BIO-2 (Avoid Impacts on Nesting Birds) and Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would require that nest detection surveys be implemented corresponding with the species-specific buffers set forth in PG&E's *Nesting Birds: Specific Buffers for PG&E Activities* (Appendix E to the PEA).

**Response to Comment BO-4**

The comment expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2, briefly noting safety and wildlife concerns. The comment does not state specific concerns regarding public safety or wildlife. However, for a response to comments regarding EMFs, please refer to Master Response 2. For a response to comments regarding fire risk, please refer to Master Response 4. The EIR analyzes potential impacts to wildlife for Alternative SE-PLR-2 in Section 4.4.4 of Volume 1 of the FEIR. In addition, please refer to Master Response 9 for comments regarding golden eagles.

The comment also requests decisionmakers remove Alternative SE-PLR-2 from consideration. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Letter BP: Mark Kogler (February 21, 2021)****Letter BP**

Paso Robles, CA 93446

February 21, 2021

Mr. Rob Peterson  
 California Public Utilities Commission  
 Energy Division  
 c/o Mr. Tom Engels  
 Horizon Water and Environment  
 266 Grand Avenue, Suite 110  
 Oakland, CA 94610

*RE: Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project – Submitted to Horizon Water and Environment via email on February 21, 2021 (estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com)*

Dear Mr. Peterson:

BP-1 I live in a Paso Robles neighborhood which is within the “reconductoring” portion of the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project. I am a member of the Paso Robles Planning Commission. Before I delve into my concerns, let me state that the thoughts and comments contained within this letter are mine as a property owner and resident of Paso Robles; they are not in any way affiliated with my role as a Paso Robles Planning Commissioner. I have a vested interest in this project as one of the power poles is in my yard.

**Project Communications to Affected Stakeholders**

BP-2 The City of Paso Robles sent out a notice for the January 19<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting and this was the first notice that anyone at my address (including previous property owners) received pertaining to this project. Having received no prior notices, I first learned of the project from one of my neighbors on December 16, 2020, which was the day **after** the project sponsors held their final two virtual public workshops on the same day. Scheduling both key input meetings on the same day, December 15, 2020, was convenient for the project sponsors and their consultants, but it constrained public involvement (even by those receiving the notice) to only those available on one specific day. As a result, I was precluded from participating in one or both sessions.

BP-3 In late December I reached out to Tom Engels with HorizonH2O to learn more. During subsequent conversations and email exchanges, I learned that since August of 2018, the project sponsors (PG&E and Horizon West Transmission) and their consultants have used a spreadsheet containing 3,463 mailing addresses for notices of meetings and project activities. My property was not included in the original mailing list and the list has **not been updated** to reflect continuing changes in property ownership over the past 2-1/2 years.

BP-4 Representatives of HorizonH2O, the lead EIR consultant, have provided me with responses to questions that I had after watching both of the December meeting recordings. A project of this magnitude with far reaching implications to both individual property owners and the community at large warrants better communication techniques, up to date mailing lists, and more robust public outreach.

#### Disregard of Stakeholder and City Input

BP-5 The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) held a public scoping meeting on August 7, 2018, at which time the public had the opportunity to review project alternatives and provide comments. Additionally, during the scoping period, the CPUC received, “numerous comment letters from public agencies, the general public, and other entities.” The most frequently received comments were:

- BP-6
1. Proposed overhead power lines and poles would be out of scale with the community.
  2. Overhead lines should be placed underground to reduce aesthetic impacts and/or minimize fire risk.

In a letter to Robert Peterson of the CPUC on August 31, 2018, regarding the project’s Notice of Preparation (NOP), Warren Frace, Paso Robles Community Development Director, stated:

BP-7 *“Having reviewed the NOP, the City urges the CPUC to consider the following comments and to diligently analyze all of the proposed Project’s potential environmental impacts.*

*Because of the natural beauty in and around the City, and the City’s strong tourism industry, aesthetic impacts are of great concern to the City. The proposed scale of the poles (90 to 113 feet) would be significantly taller than the existing 70kv lines in town and out of scale with the community. Thus, to avoid the significant aesthetic and community dividing effects of the Project, transmission lines should be placed underground to the full extent possible. Where undergrounding is not feasible, shorter poles should be considered.”*

BP-8 Based on information provided to me by the project sponsors and a review of the *Draft Environmental Impact Report* (EIR), it appears that this request, as well as the comments offered during the scoping process, **have been ignored**, particularly as they relate to the reconductoring segment of the project.

#### Visual Aesthetic Concerns

BP-9 The reconductoring segment of the project is approximately three miles long. Within this area, two types of poles will be used for replacement according to EIR pages 2-20 and 2-54, and Table 2-8:

1. Light-Duty Steel Poles (LDSPs) with an approximate height of 85 feet above ground and a surface treatment to render the appearance of a natural weathering wood pole. LDSPs have an approximate base diameter of 3 feet.
2. Tubular Steel Poles (TSPs) with an approximate height of 88 feet above ground and no identified finish. Presumably, they will be the silver/gray color of steel. TSPs have an approximate base diameter of 4.5 to 5 feet.

BP-10 The existing power pole on my lot is wood and has an existing height of about 55 feet. The width of the pole at the ground is 18 inches. PG&E has told me that the replacement pole is slated to be approximately 95 feet in height and given its size, presumably it will be one of the TSPs. If so, the base could be as wide as 5 feet. The height differential between the existing poles and the replacement poles will have a substantial and negative visual impact on homes abutting the line and viewsheds from those properties. Additionally, steel color poles are commonly associated with industrial settings, not residential neighborhoods.

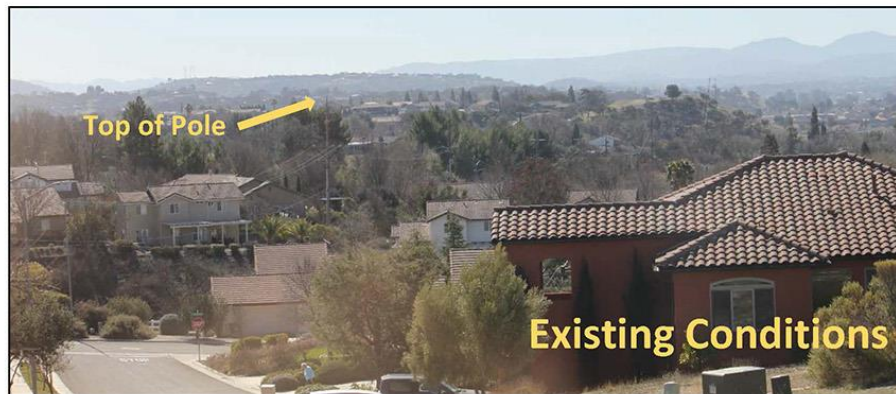
BP-11

BP-12

BP-13 From the existing substation at Niblick Road north to just beyond the Traditions neighborhood, the existing 70kv line passes along the front, side, or rear lots of approximately **117 homes** (Source: Project

BP-13 cont. ↑  
 BP-14 | Interactive Web Map). All these properties have a high potential of experiencing negative visual impacts from significantly taller poles and lines similar to what I have described above occurring in my own yard. Additional negative visual impacts will be evident from neighborhoods adjacent to the line and from broad areas of Paso Robles due to the sight lines and vistas that are created by the community's undulating topography. As identified in Warren Frace's letter of August 31, 2018, poles of this size will be out of scale with the community. Wide based poles this tall passing through a tight existing residential area are also and importantly, **out of scale with the existing residential neighborhoods.**

BP-15 | The photo below illustrates this point. The height of the existing poles and wires is low enough to largely blend in with the existing tree cover and the rolling topography. Adding 40 feet or more to the height of the poles and wires will make them far more exposed and visible from numerous vantage points around the community.



BP-16 | The EIR fails to adequately assess the negative aesthetic impacts of new poles in the reconductoring area that in some cases, will be 40 feet (or more) taller than existing poles. Furthermore, it does not consider alternatives that would relocate the existing 70kv lines outside of all or part of the existing residential neighborhoods.

BP-17 | The *Draft Environmental Impact Report* includes Appendix F which is the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. This section includes Applicant Proposed Measures or Mitigation Measures which are designed to mitigate a range of project impacts. Page F-11 addresses Use, Landscaping, Design and Architectural Elements to Complement the Surrounding Visual Landscape. Identified measures in this section include color recommendations for various project components. They also address the need to "balance the need to minimize visual contrast with ensuring that structures are visible to aircraft pilots and birds." Mitigation measures address the project from the viewpoint of pilots and birds, but are silent on the visual impacts experienced by people on the ground; property owners, nearby neighbors, and the greater Paso Robles community.



**Potential to Relocate**

BP-18 Placing the reconductoring lines underground does not appear to be an item that was seriously considered despite it being referenced in the results of the scoping input and as specifically identified in Warren Frace's letter of August 31, 2018. It does not appear that the option of placing the reconductoring lines underground or even potentially relocating them underground along South River Road and North River Road was ever considered. Relocating the lines to a River Road location would help alleviate the adverse visual impact of the new 70kv lines and poles within the existing residential neighborhoods.

**Conclusions**

BP-19 My review of the EIR and other project information leads me to the following conclusions:

- BP-20
1. Failure by the project sponsors to maintain an accurate mailing list for project updates and meeting notices over a 2-1/2 year period of time resulted in a flawed notification process.
  - BP-21 2. The design of the project, which includes poles in the reconductoring area that are of excessive height and in some cases, colors that are not compatible with residential neighborhoods, is unacceptable and inconsistent with public input received during the scoping phase of the project and with the desires of the City as stated in the letter by Warren Frace on August 31, 2018. Replacing the existing poles with new poles that are 40 or more feet higher will have a negative visual impact on vistas throughout the Paso Robles community. This impact can easily be avoided by replacing the existing poles with new ones of the same height. Doing so would retain the current scale of the electric transmission and distribution system and be more consistent with the scale of the surrounding, well established residential neighborhoods.
  - BP-22 3. The aesthetic impacts of the substantially taller poles and wires proposed in the reconductoring area have not been adequately assessed in the EIR.
  - BP-23 4. The EIR is void of any mitigation language or measures to reduce the visual impacts of the taller poles and wires in Paso Robles existing residential neighborhoods throughout the reconductoring segment of the project.
  - BP-24 5. The project design process and alternatives depicted in the EIR fail to adequately address the placement of the reconductoring lines underground or the relocation of the lines outside of the existing residential neighborhoods.

BP-25 Thank you for your consideration of the points raised in this letter.

Sincerely,



Mark Koegler

**Response to Comment BP-1**

The comment provides introductory information regarding the commenter's neighborhood in Paso Robles. This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. Nevertheless, the CPUC acknowledges the commenter's interests.

**Response to Comment BP-2**

This comment expresses the commenter's frustration related to participating in the virtual informational public workshops held for the Proposed Project. The CPUC has made numerous and variable efforts to allow for public involvement. The CPUC provided noticing for the virtual informational public workshops by mail and electronic mail to a broad range of stakeholders including state, federal, and local regulatory agencies and jurisdictions, non-profit organizations, and property owners in the vicinity of the Proposed Project; as well as on the project website<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, to assist with public involvement and allow for noticing of individuals who were unable to attend the virtual workshops, public meetings were recorded and uploaded to CPUC's YouTube channel. In addition, the CPUC published a notice in the Tribune regarding the availability of the DEIR, as described in Response to Comment BP-3.

Public comments on the DEIR have been accepted through several forms of communication (mail, electronic mail, voicemail, fax and phone.) Additionally, the CPUC's environmental consultant, Horizon Water and Environment, has responded to questions received directly through the Project website email and telephone contact. This has included responding to the commenter's questions (as confirmed by the commenter within Comment BP-4). The comment period for the DEIR closed on February 22, 2021; however, the CPUC accepted several comment letters received after the conclusion of the comment period and has provided responses to comments within the FEIR.

**Response to Comment BP-3**

The comment expresses concern about the mailing list used by the CPUC to notify stakeholders regarding meeting notices. The comment alleges that the mailing list has not been updated to reflect changes in property ownership. CEQA does not require any specific public outreach techniques or standards for public consultation or scoping prior to the preparation of an EIR, including public meetings. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15083.) CEQA does, however, require that the Lead Agency notify the public when a draft EIR is available. Section 15087 requires that a Notice of Availability (NOA) of a draft EIR be "mailed to the last known name and address of all organizations and individuals who have previously requested such notice in writing." The comment does not allege that the CPUC has failed to comply with this requirement; therefore, no further response is required.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15087 also requires a Lead Agency to notify the public that a draft EIR is available by at least one of the following procedures:

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/horizonh2o/estrella/>.

- 1) Publication at least one time by the public agency in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the proposed project. If more than one area is affected, the notice shall be published in the newspaper of largest circulation from among the newspapers of general circulation in those areas.
- 2) Posting of notice by the public agency on and off the site in the area where the project is to be located.
- 3) Direct mailing to the owners and occupants of property contiguous to the parcel or parcels on which the project is located. Owners of such property shall be identified as shown on the latest equalized assessment roll.

The CPUC published a notice in *The Tribune*, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the city of San Luis Obispo, on December 10, 2020. In addition, the DEIR was made available on the CPUC website (<https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/horizonh2o/estrella/DEIR.html>), and the NOA was sent to property owners, agencies, and interested individuals on the CPUC's mailing list for the Project. In addition, as noted in Response to Comment BP-2, the CPUC has held a series of informational public workshops with a broad range of stakeholders including state, federal, and local regulatory agencies and jurisdictions, non-profit organizations, and property owners in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. The CPUC's outreach process was in compliance with CEQA.

#### **Response to Comment BP-4**

This comment alleges public outreach should have had "better communication techniques, up to date mailing lists, and more robust public outreach." Please refer to Responses to Comments BP-3 and BP-4 for a description of the public outreach efforts made by the CPUC and a summary of how such outreach efforts comply with CEQA.

#### **Response to Comment BP-5**

The CPUC confirms a public scoping meeting was held on August 7, 2018. As described in Chapter 1, *Introduction*, Section 1.2.3, in Volume 1 of the FEIR, the CPUC confirms that during the scoping period, the CPUC received approximately 43 comment letters, 37 of which were from members of the general public.

#### **Response to Comment BP-6**

This comment lists two of the most frequently cited concerns/recommendations provided in scoping comment letters for the Proposed Project. The CPUC considered all scoping comments in developing the DEIR. This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required.

#### **Response to Comment BP-7**

This comment provides a quotation from the scoping comment letter submitted by the City of Paso Robles on the Proposed Project. This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required.

**Response to Comment BP-8**

The CPUC carefully reviewed and considered comments received during the scoping period, including those from public agencies and members from the general public in the DEIR environmental impact analysis. Scoping comments have been clearly disclosed and analyzed for potential significant adverse impacts to various resource topics, as required by the CEQA Guidelines.

**Response to Comment BP-9**

This comment provides a summary of the two types of poles that would be constructed as part of the Proposed Project. This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no response is required.

**Response to Comment BP-10**

This comment states the height and width of the existing wood pole on his property (55 feet high, 18 inches wide) and, based on communication with PG&E, the commenter's understanding that the replacement pole would be approximately 95 feet high and would presumably be a TSP with a 5-foot-wide base.

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. Nevertheless, the comment summarizing the commenter's communication with PG&E regarding the existing and proposed heights of the reconductoring segment poles is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BP-11**

This comment states that the increased height between the existing poles and replacement poles would have a substantial and negative visual impact on homes adjacent to the recondored route.

Please refer to Master Response 3 for discussion regarding concerns about the increased height of the replacement poles relative to the existing ones.

**Response to Comment BP-12**

This comment expresses the commenter's opinion that the steel color TSP poles are more commonly associated with industrial settings and not appropriate for residential neighborhoods. This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

Please note that Mitigation Measure AES-1 (Use Landscaping, Design and Architectural Elements to Complement the Surrounding Visual Landscape), as described on pages 4.1-43 to 4.1-44 in Volume 1 of this FEIR, requires the Proposed Project applicants to use a dulled finish or paint colors that are compatible with the surrounding area (i.e., dull grey, light brown, or green colors). This requirement would apply to replacement poles installed as part of the reconductoring segment. Implementation of this mitigation measure would help reduce the visual contrast imposed by the TSP poles relative to the surrounding setting, making them less prominent.

**Response to Comment BP-13**

The comment states that the existing 70 kV power line route passes along the front, side or rear lots of approximately 117 homes and all would have a potential of experiencing negative visual impacts from significantly taller poles and lines.

Please refer to Master Response 3 for discussion regarding the commenter's concerns about the visual effects of the taller replacement poles. Furthermore, while the EIR describes the visual effects on nearby residences, note that the CEQA Guidelines require that effects on public views of the project site and its surroundings be evaluated (refer to criterion c. on page 4.1-37 to 4.1-38 of Volume 1 of the FEIR). CEQA does not require that effects on private views be evaluated.

**Response to Comment BP-14**

This comment cites a letter from Warren Frace (dated August 31, 2018) and asserts that the new replacement poles (both width and height) would be out of scale with the existing residential neighborhood community.

Please refer to Master Response 3 for discussion regarding the commenter's concerns about the visual effects of the taller replacement poles.

**Response to Comment BP-15**

This comment includes a photo illustrating the commenter's concerns raised in Comment BP-14. The comment indicates that the height of the existing poles and wires is low enough to blend in with the existing tree cover and rolling topography. However, the comment states, the taller poles (40 feet or more) and lines would be more visible from numerous vantage points around the community.

This comment does not indicate where the photo depicting existing viewing conditions looking toward the existing 70 kV line was captured. Please see Master Response 3 for discussion regarding the commenter's concerns about the visual effects of the taller replacement poles. Furthermore, as described in Response to Comment BP-13, CEQA Guidelines only require that effects on *public views* of a project site and its surroundings be evaluated, not private views (refer to criterion C on page 4.1-37 to 4.1-38 in Volume 1 of this FEIR).

**Response to Comment BP-16**

The comment states that the EIR fails to adequately assess the aesthetic impacts of the new taller poles along the reconductoring route, which, in some cases, would be 40 feet taller (or more) than the existing poles. The comment further states that the EIR does not consider alternatives involving relocation of the existing 70 kV lines outside of all or part of the existing residential neighborhoods.

Please refer to Master Response 3 for discussion regarding the commenter's concerns about the visual effects of the taller replacement poles.

Regarding the commenter's concern about the EIR not evaluating an alternative that would involve relocating the existing 70 kV lines outside of all or part of existing residential neighborhoods, please note that according to Section 15126.6(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, an EIR must identify a reasonable range of alternatives which would attain most project objectives but

would avoid or minimize any significant effects of the project. While it is true that the new replacement poles along the reconductoring segment would be taller and more visible to nearby residents, the EIR did not conclude that taller poles and lines would result in a significant impact on the visual character or visual quality of public views in the River Road vicinity as these poles would represent an incremental visual change. Lastly, the EIR did consider an alternative combination that would completely avoid the effects of the reconductoring segment: Alternative Combination #4, would include Alternative SE-1A: Templeton Substation Expansion – 230/70 kV Substation in combination with Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route, along with Alternative BS-2: Battery Storage to Address Distribution Objective and Alternative BS-3: Behind-the-Meter Solar and Battery Storage. Under this alternative combination, no reconductoring segment would be required.

#### **Response to Comment BP-17**

The comment describes Appendix F, *Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program* of the EIR, noting that Mitigation Measure AES-1 includes color recommendations for various project components. The comment points out that the measure requires balancing the need to minimize visual contrast with ensuring structures are visible to aircraft pilots and birds, while being silent on the visual impacts experienced by property owners, nearby neighbors and the greater Paso Robles community.

This comment is noted. With implementation of Mitigation Measure AES-1, the dulled finish of the proposed TSPs and LDSPs are expected to reduce the visual contrast and thereby reduce visual effects on public views of these structures. Please note that based on concerns raised in Comments J-113 through J-117 regarding Mitigation Measure AES-1, this mitigation measure has been revised. Refer to Responses to Comments J-113 through J-117 for revisions made to Mitigation Measure AES-1.

These revisions do not result in changes to environmental impact analyses or conclusions presented in the DEIR, and therefore do not constitute significant new information that would trigger recirculation under CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5. Rather, the revisions serve to clarify and amplify the content of the DEIR.

#### **Response to Comment BP-18**

This comment states that placing the reconductoring lines underground was not seriously considered by the CPUC. The comment also notes that relocating the lines underground along South River Road and North River Road was not considered, which the commenter argues would help alleviate the adverse visual impact of the new 70 kV lines and poles within the existing residential neighborhoods.

The EIR includes a detailed evaluation of several alternatives, including an alternative to underground a section of the Proposed Project's new 70 kV power line segment, and an alternative to route the transmission line along South River Road. Prior to development of the DEIR, potential alternatives were screened in an ASR (FEIR, Volume 2, Appendix B, *Alternatives Screening Report*). The alternatives carried forward for full analysis in the EIR are the product of this screening process, which is summarized in Section 3.2 (refer to Volume 1 of this FEIR). In addition, please refer to Master Response 8, which discusses the consideration of alternatives, including undergrounding alternatives.

**Response to Comment BP-19**

This comment provides an introduction to the commenter's list of conclusions. This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted.

**Response to Comment BP-20**

This comment is noted. In respect to comments and questions related to noticing, refer to Response to Comment BP-2.

**Response to Comment BP-21**

This comment states that the new poles in the reconductoring segment are of excessive height and, in some cases, would have colors that are incompatible with residential neighborhoods. The comment expresses concerns about the negative visual impact that these poles would have in the Paso Robles community and recommends replacing the existing poles with ones of the same height.

Please refer to Master Response 3 for discussion regarding the commenter's concerns about the visual effects of the taller replacement poles.

**Response to Comment BP-22**

This comment asserts that the aesthetic impacts of the substantially taller poles and wires associated with the reconductoring segment have not been adequately addressed in the EIR.

Please refer to Master Response 3 for discussion regarding the EIR's adequate discussion of the visual impacts related to taller replacement poles.

**Response to Comment BP-23**

The comment asserts that the EIR is void of any mitigation measures that would reduce the visual impacts of the taller poles and lines in Paso Robles existing residential neighborhoods throughout the reconductoring segment of the Proposed Project.

This comment raises similar concerns described in Comment BP-17; please refer to Response to Comment BP-17 for discussion about how Mitigation Measure AES-1 would reduce the visual contrast of the new poles. The EIR has not identified any other feasible measures that would reduce the visual effect of the new taller poles.

**Response to Comment BP-24**

Please refer to Response to Comment BP-18 for a response regarding undergrounding the transmission lines.

**Response to Comment BP-25**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. Thank you for your comment.

**Letter BQ: Margaret M. Krall (January 1, 2021)****Letter BQ**

January 1, 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,

BQ-1 | I oppose the S. River Route Alternative for the following reasons:

BQ-2 | **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.

BQ-3 | **This project should be forward-thinking and an example of what can be done to solve energy needs in California.** Why would the CPUC consider using 19th century technology when the 21st century technology of energy storage would solve the problem?

BQ-4 | **In case of a fire on S. River Road, evacuation of SYR would be extremely limited as 2 of the 3 SYR exits flow onto S. River Road.** Residents of all 146 lots of SYR + the 100 non-resident vehicles (average, per day) would have to evacuate through the single-lane Hanging Tree gate. How long would that take? How would emergency vehicles get into the Ranch?

BQ-5 | For the sake of public safety and wildlife preservation, please do not put a transmission line along S. River Road.

Sincerely,



Margaret M. Krall  
 2495 Iron Stone Loop  
 Templeton, CA 93465

CC:  
 County Supervisor Peschong  
 State Assemblyman Cunningham  
 Templeton Community Service District Board of Directors



January 1, 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 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.

**The energy required for our area, Paso Robles 1107, 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,



Ronald R Krall  
2495 Iron Stone Loop  
Templeton, CA 93465

CC:

County Supervisor Peschong  
State Assemblyman Cunningham  
Templeton Community Service District Board of Directors

**Response to Comment BQ-1**

The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BQ-2**

The comment expresses concerns regarding increased fire risk from transmission lines and asserts that Alternative SE-PLR-2 should not be selected because it is in a High Fire Hazard Zone. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BQ-3**

This comment recommends that the project use "forward-thinking" technologies, including energy storage, "to solve energy needs in California." For the CPUC's response to comments regarding the Proposed Project need and the consideration of alternatives that address the Proposed Project's objectives, please refer to Master Response 8.

**Response to Comment BQ-4**

The comment expresses concern regarding the potential for adverse impacts to emergency vehicle access and evacuation routes/ability in the event of a wildfire associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to these concerns, please refer to Master Response 6. The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BQ-5**

This comment encourages decisionmakers to reject Alternative SE-PLR-2 to preserve public safety and wildlife. The comment does not state specific concerns regarding public safety or wildlife. However, for a response to comments regarding EMFs, please refer to Master Response 2. For a response to comments regarding fire risk, please refer to Master Response 4. The EIR analyzes potential impacts to wildlife for the Alternative SE-PLR-2 in Section 4.4.4 of Volume 1 of this FEIR. In addition, please refer to Master Response 9 for comments regarding golden eagles.

Note the attached letter is identical to the letter submitted separately as Letter BR. Therefore, refer to the responses to Letter BR.

**Letter BR: Ronald R Krall (January 1, 2021)****Letter BR**

January 1, 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,

BR-1 | I oppose the S. River Route Alternative for the following reasons:

BR-2 | **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.

BR-3 | **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.

BR-4 | **The energy required for our area, Paso Robles 1107, 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.

BR-5 | For the sake of public safety and wildlife preservation, please do not put a transmission line along S. River Road.

Sincerely,



Ronald R Krall  
 2495 Iron Stone Loop  
 Templeton, CA 93465

CC:  
 County Supervisor Peschong  
 State Assemblyman Cunningham  
 Templeton Community Service District Board of Directors

**Response to Comment BR-1**

The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BR-2**

The comment expresses concerns regarding increased fire risk from transmission lines and asserts that Alternative SE-PLR-2 should not be selected because it is in a High Fire Hazard Zone. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BR-3**

The comment expresses concern over golden eagles and bald eagles and possible electrocutions and collisions with the power lines along Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to comments related to golden eagles and bald eagles, refer to Master Response 9.

**Response to Comment BR-4**

This comment argues that the energy required for the area is small enough that it can be accomplished with battery or thermal storage. The comment also notes that Templeton has no capacity for substantial residential or commercial growth, and asserts that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would be contrary to a California policy targeting "non-wire" alternatives. For the CPUC's response to these comments, please refer to Master Response 8.

**Response to Comment BR-5**

This comment encourages decisionmakers to reject Alternative SE-PLR-2 to preserve public safety and wildlife. The comment does not state specific concerns regarding public safety or wildlife. However, for a response to comments regarding EMFs, please refer to Master Response 2. For a response to comments regarding fire risk, please refer to Master Response 4. The EIR analyzes potential impacts to wildlife for the Alternative SE-PLR-2 in section 4.4.4. In addition, please see Master Response 9 for comments regarding golden eagles.

**Letter BS: Ronald and Margaret Krall (January 4, 2021)****Letter BS**

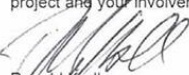
Rob Peterson, CPUC  
 c/o Tom Engels  
 Horizon Water and Environment, LLC  
 266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210  
 Oakland, CA 94610

January 4, 2021

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

Dear Dr. Engels,

- BS-1 I wanted to share with you my opposition to and my concerns with the CPUC Estrella Project route alternative, SE-PLR-2 South River Route due to Wildfire Danger, some points of concerns are listed below.
- BS-2 1) The S. River Rd. alternative (SE\_PLR-2) and the Templeton Substation sit entirely within the HIGH FIRE HAZARD ZONE. This is the only route combination that is fully within the High Fire Hazard Zone. Why is this even being considered?
- BS-3 2) Transmission lines in a high fire hazard area will greatly increase our risk of wildfire. 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 lines...the same type of lines being considered for S. River Road. The steep hill of the Blue Oak forest would mean that the fire would climb very quickly, spreading to more homes and impacting evacuation.
- BS-4 3) A fire could be ignited during construction. From DEIR 4.9-38 "any accidental ignition from construction equipment or the electrified 70 kV power line once operational could have significant effects on the surrounding rural residential community along South River Road and surrounding areas".
- BS-5 4) In case of a fire on S. River Road, evacuation of SYR would be extremely limited as 2 of the 3 SYR exits flow onto S. River Road. Residents of all 146 lots of SYR + the 100 non-resident vehicles (average, per day) would have to evacuate through the single-lane Hanging Tree gate. How long would that take? How would emergency vehicles get into the Ranch?
- BS-6 5) Between the oak trees and dry grasses, SYR is covered in dense fuel for a fire. The hill containing the Blue Oak forest is very steep. These two conditions would make for fast-moving and devastating fire.
- BS-7 6) Growth for Paso Robles is expected to happen north and east, near the Paso airport. Put the substation near the growth rather than at the opposite end of the area. Templeton has no capacity for substantial residential or commercial growth. Our residents should not have to shoulder the burden for the growth in developing areas.
- BS-8 7) This project should be forward-thinking and an example of what can be done to solve energy needs in California. Why would the CPUC consider using 19th century technology when the 21st century technology of energy storage would solve the problem?
- BS-9 As a proud resident of Santa Ysabel Ranch in Templeton, I am asking for your support in opposing this project and your involvement is greatly appreciated,

  
 Ronald Krall  
 2495 Iron Stone Loop  
 Templeton CA 93465

  
 Margaret Krall

**Response to Comment BS-1**

The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers. The commenter's concerns related to wildfires resulting from Alternative SE-PLR-2 are addressed in Responses to Comments BS-2 through BS-6.

**Response to Comment BS-2**

The comment asserts that Alternative SE-PLR-2 should not be considered because it, along with the Templeton Substation, is in a High Fire Hazard Zone. For CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BS-3**

The commenter raises concerns regarding the terrain of the region, which includes oak trees, would be impacted by potential wildfire. Please refer to Response to Comment BS-2 and Master Response 4 for more information regarding the Proposed Project's wildfire risks.

**Response to Comment BS-4**

The comment expresses concern that a fire could be ignited during construction of Alternative SE-PLR-2. Please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BS-5**

The comment expresses concern about the potential for adverse impacts to emergency vehicle access and evacuation routes/ability in the event of a wildfire associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to these concerns, please refer to Master Response 6. The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BS-6**

The comment describes the characteristics of the Santa Ysabel Ranch area that make it susceptible to fast-moving and devastating fires. Please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BS-7**

The comment requests that the substation be located near the predicted growth areas north and east of the City of Paso Robles. The comment notes that Templeton has no capacity for substantial residential or commercial growth. For CPUC's response to these comments, please refer to Master Response 8.

**Response to Comment BS-8**

This comment recommends that the project use "forward-thinking" technologies, including energy storage, "to solve energy needs in California." For the CPUC's response to comments regarding the Proposed Project need and the consideration of alternatives that address the Proposed Project's objectives, please refer to Master Response 8.

**Response to Comment BS-9**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Letter BT: Robert and Susan Kraus (December 24, 2020)**

**Letter BT**

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

December 24, 2020

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

Dear Dr. Engels,

BT-1 | My wife and I OPPOSE using South River Rd. as a route to run overhead high-voltage  
 | power lines through the Santa Ysabel Ranch (SYR) development.

BT-2 | By placing high-voltage lines within SYR's boundary, PG&E will put people and  
 | environment at risk. PG&E has previously been found by the courts to have been  
 | responsible for both the Camp Fire and the Kincade Fire. Both of these fires could have  
 | been prevented had PG&E routed their lines along a different path or buried their power  
 | lines. In addition, it is still unknown what effects living under/around an electro-  
 | magnetic field (EMF) has on humans. In a published newsletter, The National Cancer  
 BT-3 | Institute sighted what experts know about ELF-EMF,

"In 2002, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a  
 component of the World Health Organization, appointed an expert  
 Working Group to review all available evidence on static and extremely  
 low frequency electric and magnetic fields (12). The Working Group  
 classified ELF-EMFs as "possibly carcinogenic to humans," based on limited  
 evidence from human studies in relation to childhood leukemia."

The above study was on "low frequency electric and magnetic fields". What effect does  
 high-voltage have on humans?

BT-4 | If this route is chosen and the lines are not buried and shielded, then the impact on SYR  
 | and individuals could be catastrophic. Not only are Santa Ysabel Ranch (SYR) homes  
 | located within a **High Fire Hazard Zone**, the Ranch is also a historical archeological  
 | site and home to many protected species of wildlife. In a historical article written by  
 BT-5 | Kent W. Randall, he wrote:

"A large excavation project was initiated at the Santa Ysabel Ranch in  
 the early 2000s. The work was carried out in order to determine the  
 significance of sites likely to be impacted by a planned residential  
 development. A total of 14 prehistoric and mixed prehistoric/historic sites  
 were tested. Subsequent analyses of recovered artifacts and Eco facts



BT-5  
cont. ↑ revealed evidence for occupation of Santa Ysabel Ranch spanning over 8,000 years, from the early Holocene to the Protohistoric/Mission period."

Knowing this, continued protection of SYR is a priority for SLO County and should also be a major consideration before PG&E adopts So. River Rd." as a chosen route.

BT-6 No resident wants the installation of high-voltage power lines to be routed over or near their property. It is an undeniable fact that doing so will drive down the value of nearby residential properties. **High Voltage Lines** will take away the physical and psychological enjoyment of homeownership for those owners within close proximity to proposed electrical lines.

BT-7 No homeowner is going to allow this to happen without a court challenge. PG&E will once again find themselves buried in court if the proposed project is approved.

BT-8 It's time for PG&E to get it right. Choose a route other than SYR for high voltage poles/lines or revamp existing lines/poles to accommodate increased voltage needs.

Respectfully,



Robert and Susan Kraus  
2255 Lake Ysabel Rd., Templeton, CA 93465

**Response to Comment BT-1**

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. This comment does not raise issues regarding EIR adequacy and no further response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BT-2**

The comment asserts that transmission lines associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2 would increase wildfire risk and expresses the opinion that wildfires could be prevented by undergrounding transmission lines. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased wildfire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4. The CPUC has evaluated an alternative that includes undergrounding of transmission lines in the EIR, specifically Alternative PLR-3, Strategic Undergrounding. For a response to comments regarding consideration of alternatives, please refer to Master Response 8.

**Response to Comment BT-3**

This comment raises concerns related to EMF, purports to quote a newsletter from the National Cancer Institute, and questions the effect that high-voltage power lines have on humans. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to EMF and human health, refer to Master Response 2.

**Response to Comment BT-4**

The comment claims that if Alternative SE-PLR-2 is chosen and the lines are not buried and shielded, then the adverse impact on Santa Ysabel Ranch and individuals could be "catastrophic". Please refer to Master Response 4 for a discussion of increased fire risk and Master Response 2 for information about EMF.

**Response to Comment BT-5**

This comment notes that the Santa Ysabel Ranch is located in a High Fire Hazard Zone and that numerous archaeological sites are located on Santa Ysabel Ranch, which the commenter states is home to protected species of wildlife. These concerns are addressed in the EIR. Section 4.9.4 in Volume 1 of the FEIR (see pages 4.9-37 to 4.9-38) discusses the impacts relative to Alternative SE-PLR-2 due to its location in a HFHSZ. It finds that with Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, which requires preparation and implementation of a fire prevention and management plan, impacts would be less than significant. For a response to comments regarding fire risk, please refer to Master Response 4. With regard to archeological resources, no Native American archaeological sites are known to exist along the Alternative SE-PLR-2 route. However, the area is considered sensitive for Native American resources, and such resources could be revealed during construction. (FEIR, Volume 1, Sections 4.4.4 and 4.5.4.) Unanticipated discovery of cultural resources during construction of Alternative SE-PLR-2 is addressed under APM CUL-3 (Inadvertent Discoveries) and Mitigation Measure CR-1 (CPUC Enhancements to APMs CUL 1, CUL 2, CUL 3, CUL 5, and CUL 6), which require that all construction work within 50 feet of a discovery will cease and the principal investigator be consulted to assess the find. The EIR analyzes potential impacts to wildlife for the Alternative SE-PLR-2 in Section 4.4, "Biological

Resources,” pages 4.4-74 to 4.4-76, in Volume 1 of the FEIR. In addition, please refer to Master Response 9 for the CPUC’s response to comments regarding golden eagles.

**Response to Comment BT-6**

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 and raises concerns with regard to the reduction in property values due to Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC’s response to comments related to potential effects on property values, please refer to Master Response 7.

**Response to Comment BT-7**

This comment does not raise issues regarding EIR adequacy and no further response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC’s decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BT-8**

This comment requests decisionmakers choose a route other than Alternative SE-PLR-2 or “revamp” existing lines to accommodate increased energy demand. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC’s decisionmakers.

**Letter BU: Tom Leatherwood (January 25, 2021)****Letter BU**

**From:** [Tom Leatherwood](#)  
**To:** [estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com](mailto:estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com)  
**Cc:** [Steve Baker](#)  
**Subject:** reroute  
**Date:** Monday, January 25, 2021 12:18:14 PM

---

Hello,

- BU-1 I am a resident of the Circle B Springs development, by which PGE wishes to ruin our aesthetics and neighborhood by routing this monstrous antiquated system for transmitting power overland with 107 foot towers.
- BU-2 Just the installation process for this project will disrupt our lives in ways no one seems to get. There is only one single lane road access to this route. Plus there is no off road parking available. Their vehicles will block our access at any given point and time for the duration of the installation. This is a private gated community. Our roads are PRIVATE and privately maintained. Permission to pass through those gates not to mention bringing heavy equipment to bear on blacktop surfaces never intended for such would bring another expense, (probably lawsuit) for the repair and or replacement of such. If this project were to move ahead.
- BU-3 Meanwhile the alternate routes bring NO such issues and related grief this one would.
- BU-4 Not to mention the health aspects of living by high tension electrical current, NOT to mention the DOWN sizing our our properties values.
- BU-5 As there IS a less invasive routing available and with all the push back from Cava Robles RV park and the Ribboli Wines Im going on record, and did the other night in the city council meeting which resulted in a 5 to 0 vote to oppose this route, that I (we) will take ANY action available to us, class action, individual etc to oppose this.
- BU-6 Putting it underground would be even MORE invasive to our full and complete enjoyment of our properties (HOMES) which we have every right to expect to do.
- BU-7 I personally will not hesitate to block, interfere with and oppose this route by any means available to me. Money is no object. Our RIGHTS ARE the object.
- BU-8 That we are still having this dialog seems like grounds enough to file a court action to put stoppage to the project. An endeavor we will make EVERY effort possible to block, interfere with and slow, the installation process, should it proceed.
- BU-9 I ask ONE person involved to imagine a 107 foot tall robotic tower within 20 feet of their driveway???? Circle B springs is an Oasis in the north county. Dominated by a private lake. My properties value is estimated at over 2M \$ currently.
- BU-10 I see many properties turned over to the use of Towers of one kind or another for the transmission of Internet,wifi, Micro wave and TV reception, to the degradation of their neighborhood, and associated neglect that those properties suffer as a result.
- BU-11 One reason given for the installation at ALL to happen was as a backup during power outages? Seriously? With the advent of alternative power options and increased viability and affordability of using them apparent, that makes this proposal look even MORE foolish and

- BU-11 cont. ↑ invasive and proves that PGE is NOT our friend. No surprise.
- BU-12 | And my issues here do not even begin to cover the danger that these lines represent, evidenced by the myriad lawsuits files against PGE due to the epidemic of brush fires blamed on downed power lines over the recent past.
- BU-13 | I am in discussions with the legal department of my Company now as to our options and the timing involved in implementing them. I and the other 12 CBS's residents are resolved to fight tooth and nail for the right to keep our properties and neighborhood in the condition they were in when we choose to build our dreams here. Those dreams did NOT include sizzling (in rain) high voltage power lines within feet of the places we live and walk and our children play.
- BU-14 | In the entire scope of our defense however, we are small players compared to the might that our corporate neighbors are willing, able, and ready to bring to bear to prevent this travesty.
- BU-15 | These monstrous offenses will pass over some of the most beautiful countryside the north county has to offer, not to mention just a few minutes from town. Bad enough for the agriculture, IMPOSSIBLE for the residential concerns.

Thank you.

**Tom Leatherwood/CEO**  
**Avlite Aviation, Inc**  
**3150 Propeller Dr**  
**Paso Robles, Ca 93446**  
**805-2394037**  
**805-2392980 Fax**  
**avliteaviation.com**  
**Grimes Lighting Specialist**  
***"PROVIDING AIRCRAFT LIGHTING SOLUTIONS SINCE 1977"***

**Response to Comment BU-1**

This comment provides an introduction to the remainder of the comment letter, noting general concerns regarding aesthetics. The EIR provides an analysis of potential aesthetics impacts related to the Proposed Project in Section 4.1, “Aesthetics,” in Volume 1 of this FEIR. In addition, please refer to Master Response 3 for the CPUC’s response to comments related to aesthetics.

**Response to Comment BU-2**

This comment describes concerns regarding potential impacts on access to the commenter’s property within the Circle B Springs development during construction of the Proposed Project. The commenter did not identify the specific property they discuss, so this response provides general information about the process for establishing work areas in the vicinity of new poles that would be installed as part of the Proposed Project. These work areas would be used to facilitate the pole assembly, erection, and hardware assembly processes. They would also be used to support the conductor installation and/or removal processes. The final pole locations would be determined when engineering is complete and, where feasible, would be adjusted to account for property owner preferences. A detailed description of construction process and methods for each of the components of the Proposed Project is included in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, Section 2.5.1, in Volume 1 of the FEIR. Pole structure work areas are discussed in Section 2.5.2 on pages 2-77 to 2-78.

Structure work areas may also be adjusted to accommodate the final pole locations. These work areas would typically be centered on the pole location and would vary in size depending on the type of pole being installed. The new 70 kV power line segments would use a combination of tubular steel poles (TSPs) and light-duty steel poles (LDSPs). Typical work areas are about 100 feet by 100 feet for LDSPs and 150 by 150 feet for TSPs. As stated in Section 4.17, “Transportation,” in Volume 1 of this FEIR, temporary lane or road closures may be required for construction of the 70 kV power line, in particular at locations where the power line route would cross roadways. Where temporary lane or road closures would occur, HWT and PG&E would be required to implement the provisions for temporary lane closures described in Mitigation Measure TR-1 (Construction Traffic Control Plan), which would include the provision of signage, flaggers, and/or other devices to route vehicle traffic around the construction work area, and to ensure motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists are able to safely pass through the detour areas. Mitigation Measure TR-1 would also require signage and/or flaggers be used to warn motorists of potential safety hazards associated with slow-moving trucks or construction equipment that may be operated on public roadways. Nevertheless, traffic flow may be temporarily disrupted along Golden Hill Road in the area of Circle B HOA when it is necessary to conduct work from road shoulders where poles are located adjacent to roadways. Shoulder work would be short term and limited in duration (NEET West and PG&E 2017; page 3.16-16). With implementation of Mitigation Measure TR-1 and the requirements in encroachment permits, these effects would be less than significant.

Staging areas would be used for employee parking during the Proposed Project construction period. Thus, the alleged lack of off road parking in the Circle B area would not be a hindrance to the construction effort.

**Response to Comment BU-3**

This comment asserts that alternate routes do not result in the same adverse impacts that the commenter anticipates from the Proposed Project 70 kV power line route. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers. The commenter is also encouraged to review Chapter 5, *Alternatives Analysis Summary and Comparison of Alternatives*, in Volume 1 of this FEIR; which provides a summary of the potential impacts of the respective alternatives (which are evaluated in detail in Chapter 4) and alternative combinations and compares the impacts to the Proposed Project.

**Response to Comment BU-4**

This comment expresses concerns related to human health from exposure to EMF and also asserts that the Proposed Project would adversely affect property values. In response to the commenter's concern regarding EMFs, please refer to Master Response 2. In response to comments related to potential for the commenter's property value to decrease, refer to Master Response 7.

**Response to Comment BU-5**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BU-6**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. The commenter's opposition to undergrounding the transmission line is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BU-7**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BU-8**

This comment suggests taking a court action to stop the project. This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BU-9**

In response to comments related to potential for the commenter's property value to decrease, refer to Master Response 7.

**Response to Comment BU-10**

The commenter states they have seen many properties turned over to use of technological infrastructure "to the degradation of their neighborhood." The comment does not specify the nature of this "degradation." Please note that CEQA is concerned with physical changes in the environment; social and economic changes are not in themselves cognizable as environmental

impacts unless they will cause such physical impacts. To the extent the commenter opines on aesthetic impacts, please refer to Master Response 3.

**Response to Comment BU-11**

This comment criticizes the need for the Proposed Project (citing outages) and one of the Proposed Project Applicants (PG&E). The comment cites consideration of alternative power options and increased viability and affordability for these technologies. This comment is noted and will be shared with decisionmakers. Please refer to Master Response 8 for discussion of the Proposed Project need and consideration of alternatives.

**Response to Comment BU-12**

The comment expresses concern that transmission lines would increase fire risk. Please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BU-13**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BU-14**

This comment does not raise an environmental issue related to EIR adequacy, and no further response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BU-15**

This comment expresses general concerns about the aesthetic impacts of the Proposed Project. The EIR provides an analysis of potential aesthetics impacts related to the Proposed Project in Section 4.1, "Aesthetics," in Volume 1 of this FEIR. In addition, please refer to Master Response 3 for the CPUC's response to comments related to aesthetics.



**Letter BV: Byron Kim Lilly (December 17, 2020)****Letter BV**

Byron Kim Lilly  
 1045 Spanish Camp Road  
 P. O. Box 1918  
 Paso Robles, Ca.  
 93446

12/17/2020

Mr. Rob Peterson, CPUC  
 c/o Dr. 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.

BV-1

I have been a resident of the Spanish Camp and I built the second home in the development in (1978). I studied the area carefully regarding fire danger and felt the location of my home was safe due to South River Road and the year around stream to the north of the road. I strongly believe that the placement of the high power lines increases the danger of fire crossing the road and stream and is a major and unacceptable change to my residence, as well as any other home in this development.

BV-2

I noticed that the preferred routing up Charolais Rd is on a City street and protected with Fire Hydrants for fire protection that are not available on the S. River Route Alternative. Furthermore our county area on South River road is not protected by the City of Paso Robles Fire Dept. and Charolais Rd. is protected. As you review this alternative please be aware that the Charolais Rd. area is a full curb and gutter city street with boarding walking path and bike lanes and minimum burnable fuel and on the other hand South River Rd. is bordered on both sides with heavy dry native grass lands that are very subject to burning.

BV-3

Needless to say, the fire danger in this area must be a major factor in the decision making on this project along with the other mitigating draw backs by other voices should also be carefully considered.

BV-4

Please avoid using this alternative route for the power lines.

Sincerely



Byron Kim Lilly  
 805 459 3769

**Response to Comment BV-1**

The comment expresses concern that transmission lines associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route would increase fire risk. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BV-2**

This comment discusses a route up Charolais Road, noting that this route would follow a City street, which has fire hydrants. The comment argues that the routing along Charolais Road is preferable to Alternative SE-PLR-2 and would be better in terms of fire risk. It appears that the commenter is referring to the Templeton-Paso Creston Route Alternative (SE-PLR-3) or the Creston Route Alternative (PLR-2), which were both dismissed from detailed evaluation in the EIR. The commenter is advised to review the Alternatives Screening Report (ASR) (refer to FEIR, Volume 2, Appendix B, *Alternatives Screening Report*) for the rationale for dismissing these alternatives. As noted in the ASR, the analysis found that Alternative SE-PLR-3 may be infeasible due to engineering and environmental constraints, and it would not reduce or eliminate any of the potentially significant effects of the Proposed Project. The same was found for Alternative PLR-2. Additionally, for discussion of the potential increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BV-3**

The commenter again raises concerns regarding fire danger in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Please refer to Response to Comment BV-1.

**Response to Comment BV-4**

This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Letter BW: Richard E Malaise (January 1, 2021)****Letter BW**

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:

BW-1 I oppose the S River Road Route Alternative for the following reasons:

BW-2 **Transmission lines in this Wildfire Hazard Zone will greatly increase the risk of fire while simultaneously blocking all exits.** Santa Ysabel Ranch is located within a High Fire Hazard 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.

BW-3 **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.

BW-4 **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?

BW-5 **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.

BW-6 For the sake of public safety and wildlife preservation, please do not put a major transmission line along S. River Road.

Sincerely,



Richard E Malaise  
 2250 Lake Ysabel Rd  
 Templeton, CA 93465

**Response to Comment BW-1**

The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BW-2**

The comment expresses concern regarding increased fire risk from Alternative SE-PLR-2 and asserts that the alternative should not be selected because it is in a High Fire Hazard Zone. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

The comment also expresses concern about the potential for adverse impacts to emergency vehicle access and evacuation routes/ability in the event of a wildfire associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to these concerns, please refer to Master Response 6.

In addition, the comment expresses concern regarding the commenter's ability to buy homeowner's insurance. Please refer to Master Response 7.

**Response to Comment BW-3**

The comment expresses concern over golden eagles and bald eagles and possible electrocutions with the power lines along Alternative SE-PLR-2. For CPUC's response to comments related to golden eagles and bald eagles, refer to Master Response 9.

**Response to Comment BW-4**

This comment is noted. The commenter's concerns are about losing cultural sites and heritage oaks. Impacts to cultural resources are addressed in the EIR and it is noted that no Native American archaeological sites are known to exist along the Alternative SE-PLR-2 route. However, the area is considered sensitive for Native American resources, and such resources could be revealed during construction. (FEIR, Volume 1, Sections 4.4.4 and 4.5.4.). Unanticipated discovery of cultural resources during construction of Alternative SE-PLR-2 would be addressed under APM CUL-3 (Inadvertent Discoveries) and Mitigation Measure CR-1 (CPUC Enhancements to APMs CUL 1, CUL 2, CUL 3, CUL 5, and CUL 6), which require that all construction work within 50 feet of any discovery cease and the principal investigator be consulted to assess the find. For the CPUC's response to comments related to heritage oak trees, refer to Master Response 10.

**Response to Comment BW-5**

This comment argues that the energy increment required for the area is small enough that it can be met through other means, such as battery or thermal storage. The comment questions why the Alternative SE-PLR-2 alignment is being considered when the substation should be located near the anticipated growth areas, and also why more "non-wire" alternatives are not considered. For the CPUC's response to the comments, please refer to Master Response 8.

**Response to Comment BW-6**

The commenter expresses public safety and wildlife preservation concerns regarding Alternative SE-PLR-2. The comment does not state specific concerns regarding public safety or wildlife. However, for a response to comments regarding EMFs, please refer to Master Response 2. For a

response to comments regarding fire risk, please refer to Master Response 4. The EIR analyzes potential impacts to wildlife for the Alternative SE-PLR-2 in Section 4.4.4 (see pages 4.4-74 to 4.4-76) within Section 4.4, “Biological Resources,” in Volume 1 of the FEIR. In addition, please refer to Master Response 9 for the CPUC’s response to comments regarding golden eagles. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC’s decisionmakers.

**Letter BX: Donovan Marley (December 20, 2020)**

	<b>Letter BX</b>
	<p><b>Donovan Marley</b>  <b>2985 Warm Spring Lane</b>  <b>Templeton, California 92365</b>  December 20, 2020</p>
	<p>Rob Peterson, CPUC  c/o Tom Engels  Horizon Water and Environment, LLC  266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210  Oakland, California 94610</p>
	<p><b>RE: Opposition to SE-PLR-2, Templeton – South River Road Alternative</b></p>
BX-1	<p>I am writing to oppose the installation of high voltage electrical transmission lines along South River Road. Only the South River Road alternative proposes the construction of high-voltage overhead transmission lines on and between earthquake faults through a populated area that has been designated in its entirety as a “High Fire Hazard Zone.” It is irresponsible to propose installing the same technology on South River Road that sparked the deadly fire that destroyed the town of Paradise and burned 153,000 acres, including 18,800 structures, and 85 human beings.</p>
BX-2	<p>A 2001 study of a portion of the South River Road route by the <b>Department of Planning and Building of the County of San Luis Obispo</b>, found, “The primary seismic hazard is earthquake shaking generated by a major earthquake on the San Andreas fault located approximately 20 miles to the northeast. The occurrence of this event is considered likely to happen during the life of the project.” The report then lists one potential exception to the finding that the San Andres fault is the primary seismic hazard—the fault lines that lie under the South River Road Alternative: “The Rinconada fault transects the site, and should movement actually occur on this fault, the resulting shaking could exceed that expected from the San Andreas fault. Also, ground rupture along the surface trace could cause</p>

BX-2  
cont.

major damage to any structures located astride the fault.” Later studies have confirmed that the San Andreas and the Rinconada faults are not just adjacent, they are connected. This gives new meaning to, “The occurrence of this event is considered likely to happen during the life of the project.”

BX-3

In addition to the threats to hundreds of families that live above the Rinconada faults in this High Fire Hazard Zone, there are important environmental, and cultural impacts:

BX-4

- Heritage oaks will be cut down—including trees that shaded the 18<sup>th</sup> Century meeting of Native Americans and Spanish explorers in what would become San Luis Obispo County.

BX-5

- The footings for 80-foot-high utility poles will be sunk into archeological sites that record thousands of years of Native American history; some of these sites are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historical Places.

BX-6

- Golden eagles that nest on the west side of River Road and hunt on the east side will face—daily—the possibility of extermination.

BX-7

I ask the members of the commission to reject the South River Road Alternative and approve a route that poses less danger to human life, to our cultural heritage and to the abundant animal and vegetable life in the air, on the ground, and in the lakes and streams on both sides of South River Road.

Cordially,



Donovan Marley

**Response to Comment BX-1**

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route and concerns related to the location of Alternative SE-PLR-2, specifically the proposal of a transmission line near existing earthquake faults, and the designation of the area as a High Fire Hazard Zone and related increased fire risk.

For the CPUC's response to comments related to the Rinconada Fault Line's proximity to Alternative SE-PLR-2, please refer to Master Response 1. In response to concerns related to increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, including the existing fire hazard designation along the Alternative SE-PLR-2 alignment, please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BX-2**

This comment summarizes results and quotes from a 2001 study on earthquake hazard in San Luis Obispo County, and notes that rupture of the Rinconada Fault could result in significant shaking. The comment does not provide the name of the study or sufficient information for the CPUC to assess or verify the specific findings of the study or its relationship to the comment. For the CPUC's response to comments related to the Rinconada Fault Line's proximity to Alternative SE-PLR-2, please refer to Master Response 1.

**Response to Comment BX-3**

For the CPUC's response to comments related to the existing fire hazard designation of the land along and surrounding the Alternative SE-PLR-2 alignment, please refer to Master Response 4. CPUC's response to comments related to the proximity of the Rinconada Fault Line to Alternative SE-PLR-2 is provided in Master Response 1. Other concerns regarding environmental and cultural impacts raised by the commenter are addressed in the responses BX-4, BX-5, and BX-6, below.

**Response to Comment BX-4**

The comment expresses concern over impacts to the heritage oaks that are located near Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to comments regarding heritage oak trees, refer to Master Response 10.

**Response to Comment BX-5**

The commenter expresses concerns about utility poles' potential impacts to archaeological sites and cultural resources. These concerns are addressed in Section 4.5, "Cultural Resources," in Volume 1 of the FEIR. As described in Section 4.5, no Native American archaeological sites are known to exist along the Alternative SE-PLR-2 route. However, the area is considered sensitive for Native American resources, and such resources could be revealed during construction. (FEIR, Volume 1, Sections 4.4.4 and 4.5.4.) Unanticipated discovery of cultural resources during construction of Alternative SE-PLR-2 is addressed under APM CUL-3 (Inadvertent Discoveries) and Mitigation Measure CR-1 (CPUC Enhancements to APMs CUL 1, CUL 2, CUL 3, CUL 5, and CUL 6), which require that all construction work within 50 feet of a discovery cease and the principal investigator be consulted to assess the find.



**Response to Comment BX-6**

The commenter asserts that golden eagles that nest on the west side of River Road and hunt on the east side will face the possibility of extermination on a daily basis. For the CPUC's response to comments regarding golden eagles, refer to Master Response 9.

**Response to Comment BX-7**

This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers. Responses to the commenter's specific restated concerns are provided in Responses to Comments BX-1 through BX-6.

**Letter BY: Dawn Mattivi (January 15, 2021)****Letter BY**

Rob Peterson, CPUC  
 c/o Tom Engels  
 Horizon Water and Environment, LLC  
 2266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210  
 Oakland, CA 9410

January 15, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Engels,

- BY-1 | I oppose the S. River Route Alternative for the following reasons:
- BY-2 | Santa Ysabel Ranch is a beautiful enclave of homes which is located within a High Fire Hazard Zone. Transmission lines in our area will greatly increase our risk of fire. We have a home in the Ventura area and have experienced, firsthand, the deadly combination of winds, dry brush AND power transmission lines. Thankfully, our home was spared, but some of our dear friends were not so lucky. Our surrounding dry vegetation and steep hills, in combination with powerful transmission lines, is a recipe for disaster.
- BY-3 | In addition to the extreme fire danger posed by these lines, Heritage Oak trees would be removed, our beautiful eagles would be endangered, and our property values and resale values would be dramatically impacted. The substation should be placed near where all the substantial residential and commercial growth will take place in Paso Robles—not here in Templeton.
- BY-4 | Please save us from potential fire risk and preserve our beautiful area by not putting a transmission line along S. River Road.

Sincerely,



Dawn Mattivi

1585 Fire Rock Loop  
 Templeton, CA 93465

**Response to Comment BY-1**

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BY-2**

The comment expresses concerns regarding increased fire risk from transmission lines and asserts that Alternative SE-PLR-2 should not be selected because it is in a High Fire Hazard Zone. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding increased fire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, including the existing fire hazard along the Alternative SE-PLR-2 alignment, please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BY-3**

The comment expresses concern about heritage oak trees, eagles, and property values. For the CPUC's response to comments regarding heritage oaks, refer to Master Response 10. For the CPUC's response to comments regarding eagles, refer to Master Response 9. For CPUC's response to comments regarding property values, refer to Master Response 7.

The commenter also opines that the Proposed Project substation should be located nearby the location of expected future substantial and residential growth in the City of Paso Robles. For the CPUC's response to comments related to the Proposed Project need and consideration of alternatives, please refer to Master Response 8.

**Response to Comment BY-4**

The commenter requests rejection of Alternative SE-PLR-2 and again reiterates specific concerns related to fire risk and preservation of biological resources are addressed above in Response to Comments BY-2 and BY-3. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Letter BZ: Molly McGrail (January 15, 2021)**

Letter BZ

January 15, 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,

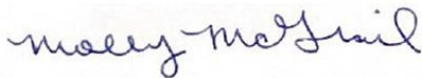
BZ-1 | The S. River Route Alternative would cause inevitable danger and destruction to the land, the wildlife and to the people who live here. For these reasons, I vehemently oppose this proposal.

BZ-2 | **Transmission lines in a WILDFIRE area will increase our risk of fire infinitely.**  
 PG&E transmission lines were the cause of two recent California wildfires that have wiped out whole communities and destroyed the lives and livelihoods of thousands of families. Our children and friends play adjacent to this property being considered for 80 foot high steel poles with hazardous transmission lines. Please do not allow such an extreme danger to torment the people living here with the constant anticipation of upcoming devastating wildfire and loss.

BZ-3 | The proposed land for this alternative route is our home, and it is also home to hundreds of irreplaceable Heritage Oaks inhabited by precious wildlife, including resident Golden Eagles and visiting Bald Eagles. The S. River Road Alternative (SE\_PLR-2) sits entirely within the HIGH FIRE HAZARD ZONE. With steep hills and dry grasses, both fuel and terrain ideal for fire to grow rapidly, this location should never be considered for this project.

BZ-4 | It is time PG&E put their energy into 21st century solutions that will protect the people they serve and ensure safety, so we may begin trusting PG&E again. Please DO NOT allow SE-PLR-2, Templeton - S. River Route Alternative to proceed.

Sincerely yours,



Molly McGrail  
 1610 Fire Rock Loop  
 Templeton, CA 93465

**Response to Comment BZ-1**

The commenter provides an introduction to the remainder of the comment letter and expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route due to the Proposed Project's impacts to the land, wildlife, and people. The specifics of this comment are addressed in Responses to Comment BZ-2, BZ-3, and BZ-4. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

**Response to Comment BZ-2**

The comment expresses concern that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2 would increase fire risk. For the CPUC's response to these concerns, please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BZ-3**

The comment states that the land surrounding Alternative SE-PLR-2 is their home and also home to heritage oaks and golden and bald eagles. For the CPUC's responses to comments regarding golden eagles and bald eagles, refer to Master Response 9. For the CPUC's response to comments regarding heritage oaks, refer to Master Response 10.

The comment also notes that Alternative SE-PLR-2 is located within the High Fire Hazard Zone and describes the existing conditions in the area making it susceptible to wildfire. For these reasons, the comment asserts that Alternative SE-PLR-2 should not be selected. Please refer to Master Response 4.

**Response to Comment BZ-4**

This comment opines on the Proposed Project's safety and requests rejection of Alternative SE-PLR-2. The comment does not state specific concerns regarding safety. However, for a response to comments regarding EMFs, please refer to Master Response 2. For a response to comments regarding fire risk, please refer to Master Response 4. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.