

Letter DA: Scott L. and Jane M. Robinson (January 10, 2021)**Letter DA**

Scott L. and Jane M. Robinson
 2390 Battering Rock Road
 Templeton, California 93465
 (805) 221-5153

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

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

Dear Dr. Engels,

We strongly oppose the South River Route Alternative.

DA-1 | My wife and I, along with several other neighbors, live at the very top of the Santa Ysabel Ranch (the “Ranch”) on the hill containing the Blue Oak Forest. The Ranch is wholly located within a High Fire Hazard Zone. Transmission Lines in a wildfire area will greatly increase our risk of a devastating fire. Such a fire would race up the steep hills through our dry grasslands and oaks, taking every home in its path. High-voltage transmission lines were the cause of the November 2018 Camp Fire, which completely destroyed Paradise, California, and the October 2019 Kincade Fire. My childhood friend lost his home and all of his belongings in Paradise and his and his family’s life has not been the same since. Luckily, they survived and were not injured. Would we and all those who live on the Ranch be so lucky?

DA-2 | In the event of a fire along South River Road, evacuation would be nearly impossible because two of three exits from the Ranch feed onto South River Road. There are nearly 150 home on the Ranch and, on a daily basis, about 100 visitors. The only evacuation would be through the Hanging Tree Lane gate. Evacuation would take a long time and emergency vehicles coming onto the Ranch would further slow the process. Can you imagine the chaotic line of cars descending down the steep hill that is Hanging Tree Lane? I can, and the thought of it feels like another Paradise disaster.

DA-3 | I am informed that the energy required for our area (Paso Robles 1107) is small and could be provided with battery or thermal storage. The Templeton area does not have the capacity for much more residential growth, and certainly not for any large-scale commercial growth. Any future growth is expected to be to the north and east near the Paso Robles Airport. It seems to us that the proposed substation should be located in that region. Why is this route even being considered? Also, as a matter of policy, underground or non-wire alternatives should be the focus. This project should be progressive and an example of what can be done to effectively solve California’s energy needs.

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DA-5 | The Ranch is home to Golden Eagles and many varieties of hawks, along with migratory Bald Eagles. There are many eagles' nests on the Ranch. The long construction time to install these high-voltage towers would unnecessarily expose this wildlife to deadly electrocution or collision.

DA-6 | The idyllic beauty of South River Road and the Ranch would be hugely affected if this project is permitted to proceed. This is one of the last pastoral routes entering Paso Robles. We drive it daily by choice and are always amazed by the beauty. We moved here in May 2020 from the beach in Cayucos. We willingly traded the blue Pacific for the jaw-dropping splendor that is the South River Road and this Ranch. The proposed project is not consistent with the County's current General Plan which identifies aesthetics as one of the important factors contributing to the County's community character.

DA-7 | Please do not put us, our wildlife, and the beauty of our community at further risk by moving forward with this route. It should be obvious that the South River Route Alternative would be a bad choice.

Sincerely,



Response to Comment DA-1

The comment alleges that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route will increase wildfire risk and notes that the area is designated as a High Fire Hazard Zone. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to increased wildfire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

Response to Comment DA-2

The comment expresses concern about the potential for adverse impacts to evacuation routes/ability and emergency vehicle access 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.

Response to Comment DA-3

The comment states that the energy needs in the area are small and could be met with battery or thermal storage. For the CPUC's response to comments regarding the Proposed Project need and consideration of alternatives, including battery and thermal storage, please refer to Master Response 8.

Response to Comment DA-4

This comment recommends that the Proposed Project be located nearby areas projected for growth (north and east near Paso Robles Airport) and notes that the Templeton area does not have capacity for commercial and residential growth. Please refer to Master Response 8 regarding distribution capacity needs related to the Proposed Project's Distribution Objective.

Response to Comment DA-5

The comment alleges that the long construction time to install high-voltage towers would unnecessarily expose golden and bald eagles and hawks to deadly electrocution or collision. For the CPUC's response to concerns and comments about eagles and other avian species, refer to Master Response 9.

Response to Comment DA-6

The comment expresses general concern regarding the aesthetic impacts that might result from Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to aesthetic impacts from the high voltage overhead powerline and towers, please refer to Master Response 3. The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

In addition, the comment states that Alternative SE-PLR-2 is not consistent with the County's General Plan because the commenter asserts the General Plan identifies aesthetics as "one of the important factors contributing to the County's community character." The EIR references General Plan goals and policies related to aesthetics (refer to FEIR, Volume 2, Appendix A, *Local Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Plans*). In addition, 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, Section 4.1, "Aesthetics," page 4.1-53). The EIR concluded that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would have

significant and unavoidable aesthetic impacts (FEIR, Volume 1, pages 4.1-53 to 4.1-54). The comment does not introduce any evidence, and there is no evidence in the record, that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would have significant undisclosed impacts nor impacts more severe than those previously disclosed and does not require additional environmental analysis.

Response to Comment DA-7

The commenter summarizes the previous comments with a request to not put the community's safety, wildlife and "beauty" at risk by approving Alternative SE-PLR-2's route. The above response to comments addresses these general concerns. The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

Letter DB: Linda and Stephen Sanchez (January 1, 2021)**Letter DB**

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:

DB-1 | We oppose the S. River Route Alternative for the following reasons:

DB-2 | We believe that transmission lines in a Wildfire area will greatly increase the risk of fire, since Santa Ysabel Ranch is located within a High Fire Hazard Zone. The Camp and Kincadee fires were determined to have been caused by PG&E transmission lines. Please don't put us further at risk by allowing this route to proceed.

DB-3 | There are several Golden Eagle nests within SYR. Our resident Golden Eagles (and visiting Bald Eagles) would be endangered by high power lines on S. River Rd., a known wildlife migration path.

DB-4 | Growth for Paso Robles is expected to occur north and east, near the Paso Robles 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.

DB-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.

DB-6 | We implore you to consider the above. For the sake of public safety and wildlife preservation, please do not put a transmission line along S. River Road.

Respectfully,



Linda and Stephen Sanchez
 2174 Lake Ysabel Road
 Templeton, CA 93465

Response to Comment DB-1

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

Response to Comment DB-2

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

Response to Comment DB-3

The comment alleges that golden and bald eagles would be adversely affected by high power lines on South River Road. The comment also claims South River Road is a wildlife migration path. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding golden eagles, refer to Master Response 9.

Response to Comment DB-4

This comment recommends that the substation be located closer to projected growth (north and east near Paso Robles Airport) and asserts that the Templeton area does not have capacity for commercial and residential growth. This comment 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, please refer to Master Response 8.

Response to Comment DB-5

The comment describes the characteristics of the Santa Ysabel Ranch area that make it susceptible to wildfire. For CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to increased wildfire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

Response to Comment DB-6

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

Letter DC: Elizabeth Sarrow (January 1, 2021)

Letter DC

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

January 1, 2021

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

Dear Dr. Engels,

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

DC-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.

DC-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.

DC-4 | **Wildlife communities would be adversely impacted.** The proposed alignment/project would have substantial adverse effects on riparian habitat associated with Spanish Camp Creek and other sensitive natural communities identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service including federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. In addition, construction of the project would result in the permanent disruption and loss of important wildlife corridors and the long term operation and maintenance of the project would result in other unintended impacts related to the use chemical or mechanical control of vegetation within the utility right of way that could contribute to the loss of native plant species diversity and could be a continuous source of sedimentation into Spanish Camp Creek and the Salinas River. In addition to these potential impacts, transmission lines can pose collision and electrocution risks to migratory birds.

DC-5 | **General plan conflict.** The proposed alignment is not consistent with SLO County's current General Plan which identifies aesthetics as one of the important factors contributing to the County's "community character," this includes goals and policies that bear directly on the preservation of aesthetic character and visual resources. The proposed project would significantly degrade the existing visual character of the Warm Springs community.

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DC-6 The proposed project would be located on a known fault line, the Rinconada fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map for the area. This fault has the potential to produce a 7.3 magnitude earthquake.

DC-7 **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.

DC-8 For the sake of public safety and wildlife preservation, please do not put a transmission line along S. River Road.

Sincerely,



Elisabeth Sarrow
2325 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465

Response to Comment DC-1

The commenter provides an introduction to the comment letter expressing opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. This comment does not raise issues regarding EIR adequacy and no response is required.

Response to Comment DC-2

The comment alleges that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2 would increase wildfire risk and notes that the alternative is 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 DC-3

The comment expresses concern about the power lines associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2 and the risks of electrocution and collisions that the power lines will pose to golden eagles. For the CPUC's response to concerns and comments regarding golden eagles, refer to Master Response 9.

Response to Comment DC-4

The comment asserts that the Alternative SE-PLR-2 route will have adverse effects on riparian habitat and would cause loss and permanent disruption to important wildlife corridors, resulting in impacts related to the use of chemical or mechanical control of vegetation in sensitive natural communities. The comment states that the "project" (presumably referring to Alternative SE-PLR-2) could contribute to the loss of native plant species, and that the project could be a continuous source of sedimentation into Spanish Camp Creek and the Salinas River. Lastly, the comment reiterates that the transmission lines can pose collision and electrocution risks to migratory birds.

The EIR in Section 4.4, "Biological Resources," (refer to Volume 1 of this FEIR) includes APMs and mitigation measures that will be implemented for Alternative SE-PLR-2 to avoid and/or minimize impacts that could potentially occur to sensitive wildlife species and habitats as a result of construction and operation and maintenance activities. Specifically, implementation of APMs BIO-1 through BIO-5, GEN-1, and AES-2 would avoid or minimize potential impacts to special-status species by requiring pre-construction special status species surveys, nest surveys, a biologist to monitor ground-disturbing activities if species are discovered in the surveys; development and implementation of a worker environmental awareness program; and activities to minimize potential for California red-legged frog (CRLF) or western spadefoot toad individuals becoming entrapped in construction areas. Implementation of APMs HYDRO-1, HAZ-1, GEN-1, and AIR-3 and Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would minimize potential indirect effects on habitats and species by requiring construction areas to be located outside of drainage areas, prevent the release of hazardous materials that could indirectly affect CRLF and western spadefoot toad, and minimize dust generation during construction.

Additionally, implementation of a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) would minimize potential off-site discharges that could adversely affect habitat or species. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3 would avoid or minimize effects to avian species. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would be implemented to mitigate impacts to blue oak woodlands. Alternative SE-PLR-2 would be designed to avoid direct impacts to wetlands in

accordance with APM HYDRO-1 and Mitigation Measure BIO-1. At this time, there is no reason to believe that State or federally protected wetlands would be directly impacted by Alternative SE-PLR-2; however, if it were to become necessary to site a pole or work area within a wetland or waters, the Applicants would be required to obtain authorization from regulatory agencies and provide mitigation. The regulatory process with respect to wetlands and waters is discussed in Section 4.4.2, “Regulatory Setting” within Section 4.4 in Volume 1 of the FEIR.

Regarding the possible use of chemical and mechanical controls for vegetation management, the methods that would be used to remove, trim, or otherwise manipulate vegetation and the herbicide products that may be used over the lifespan of the transmission line are speculative. Vegetation grows each year and in ways that cannot always be predicted; thus, the most suitable methods for vegetation management would depend on the specific circumstances on the ground, which may change in the future. Vegetation clearances, per CPUC General Order (G.O) 95, would be required for the 70 kV power line under Alternative SE-PLR-2, if this alternative is selected for implementation. As described in Chapter 3, *Alternatives Description*, pages 3-112 to 3-113, in Volume 1 of the FEIR, approximately 81 vehicle trips would be necessary for vegetation trimming/removal during construction of Alternative SE-PLR-2, while it is anticipated that one vehicle trip per year would be needed for vegetation management activities during operation and maintenance of Alternative SE-PLR-2. Potential impacts to biological resources from vegetation management during operation of Alternative SE-PLR-2 are discussed on pages 4.4-74 and 4.4-75 in Section 4.4 of Volume 1 of the FEIR.

Response to Comment DC-5

The comment expresses concern that the proposed alignment for Alternative SE-PLR-2 is not consistent with the County’s General Plan because the commenter states the General Plan identifies aesthetics as “one of the important factors contributing to the County’s community character.” It is assumed that the comment is alleging inconsistency between the General Plan and Alternative SE-PLR-2, which the remainder of the comment letter references. The EIR references General Plan Goals and policies related to aesthetics (refer to FEIR, Volume 2, Appendix A, *Local Laws, Regulations, Policies, and Plans*). In addition, 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, Section 4.1, “Aesthetics,” page 4.1-53). The EIR analysis concluded that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would have significant and unavoidable aesthetic impacts (FEIR, Volume 1, pages 4.1-53 to 4.1-54). The comment does not introduce any evidence, and there is no evidence in the record, that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would have new or more severe undisclosed significant impacts that would require additional environmental analysis.

Response to Comment DC-6

This comment states that the “proposed project” (presumably referring to Alternative SE-PLR-2) would be located on a known fault line. 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 DC-7

The comment asserts that energy needs in the area are not expected to grow significantly and can be met with other technologies such as battery or thermal storage. This comment also

states that Templeton does not have capacity for residential or commercial growth, and asserts that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would be contrary to the California policy targeting “non-wire” alternatives. For the CPUC’s response to these comments, including a discussion of battery and thermal storage, please refer to Master Response 8.

Response to Comment DC-8

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

Letter DD: Mark Sarrow (January 1, 2021)

Letter DD

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

January 1, 2021

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

Dear Dr. Engels,

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

DD-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.

DD-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.

DD-4 | **Wildlife communities would be adversely impacted.** The proposed alignment/project would have substantial adverse effects on riparian habitat associated with Spanish Camp Creek and other sensitive natural communities identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service including federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. In addition, construction of the project would result in the permanent disruption and loss of important wildlife corridors and the long term operation and maintenance of the project would result in other unintended impacts related to the use chemical or mechanical control of vegetation within the utility right of way that could contribute to the loss of native plant species diversity and could be a continuous source of sedimentation into Spanish Camp Creek and the Salinas River. In addition to these potential impacts, transmission lines can pose collision and electrocution risks to migratory birds.

DD-5 | **General plan conflict.** The proposed alignment is not consistent with SLO County's current General Plan which identifies aesthetics as one of the important factors contributing to the County's "community character," this includes goals and policies that bear directly on the preservation of aesthetic character and visual resources. The proposed project would significantly degrade the existing visual character of the Warm Springs community.

DD-6 | The proposed project would be located on a known fault line, the Rinconada fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map for the area. This fault has the potential to produce a 7.3 magnitude earthquake.

DD-7 | **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.

DD-8 | For the sake of public safety and wildlife preservation, please do not put a transmission line along S. River Road.

Sincerely,



Mark Sarrow
2325 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465

Response to Comment DD-1

This letter duplicates the comments found in Letter DC; therefore, please refer to Response to Comment DC-1.

Response to Comment DD-2

Please refer to Response to Comment DC-2.

Response to Comment DD-3

Please refer to Response to Comment DC-3.

Response to Comment DD-4

Please refer to Response to Comment DC-4.

Response to Comment DD-5

Please refer to Response to Comment DC-5.

Response to Comment DD-6

Please refer to Response to Comment DC-6

Response to Comment DD-7

Please refer to Response to Comment DC-7.

Response to Comment DD-8

Please refer to Response to Comment DC-8.

Letter DE: Barbara E. Sellers (December 16, 2020)**Letter DE**

December 16, 2020

Dear Dr. Engels,

DE-1 | Thank you very much for the Zoom informational meeting, yesterday, regarding the proposed Estrella Substation project in Paso Robles and for access to the comprehensive environmental study.

DE-2 | As a resident of Santa Ysabel Ranch, I am particularly concerned about the implications the alternative South River Road route would have, not only for my property, but also for the many environmental issues you have so carefully outlined.

DE-3 | I am writing to inquire about the chart with the financial comparisons of each project and note that it might inadvertently give a false impression that the South River Road route is considerably less expensive than the other choices. There is an asterisk that indicates that the route must be combined with other projects to be viable, and I understand that. My concern is that someone might, in a hurried reading, misinterpret the lower price and raise the standing of this alternative in the early hearings. To that end, I hope your team will consider a re-examination of that chart and put a larger indicator for the full project cost of the South River Road alternative.

DE-4 | Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barbara E. Sellers
2985 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465

Response to Comment DE-1

Thank you for your comment. This comment does not raise issues regarding EIR adequacy and no response is required.

Response to Comment DE-2

The commenter expresses general concern regarding “environmental issues” related to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. This comment does not raise any specific comments regarding environmental issues such that a response could be provided. Please refer to Response to Comment DE-3 below for responses to specific environmental concerns raised by the commenter.

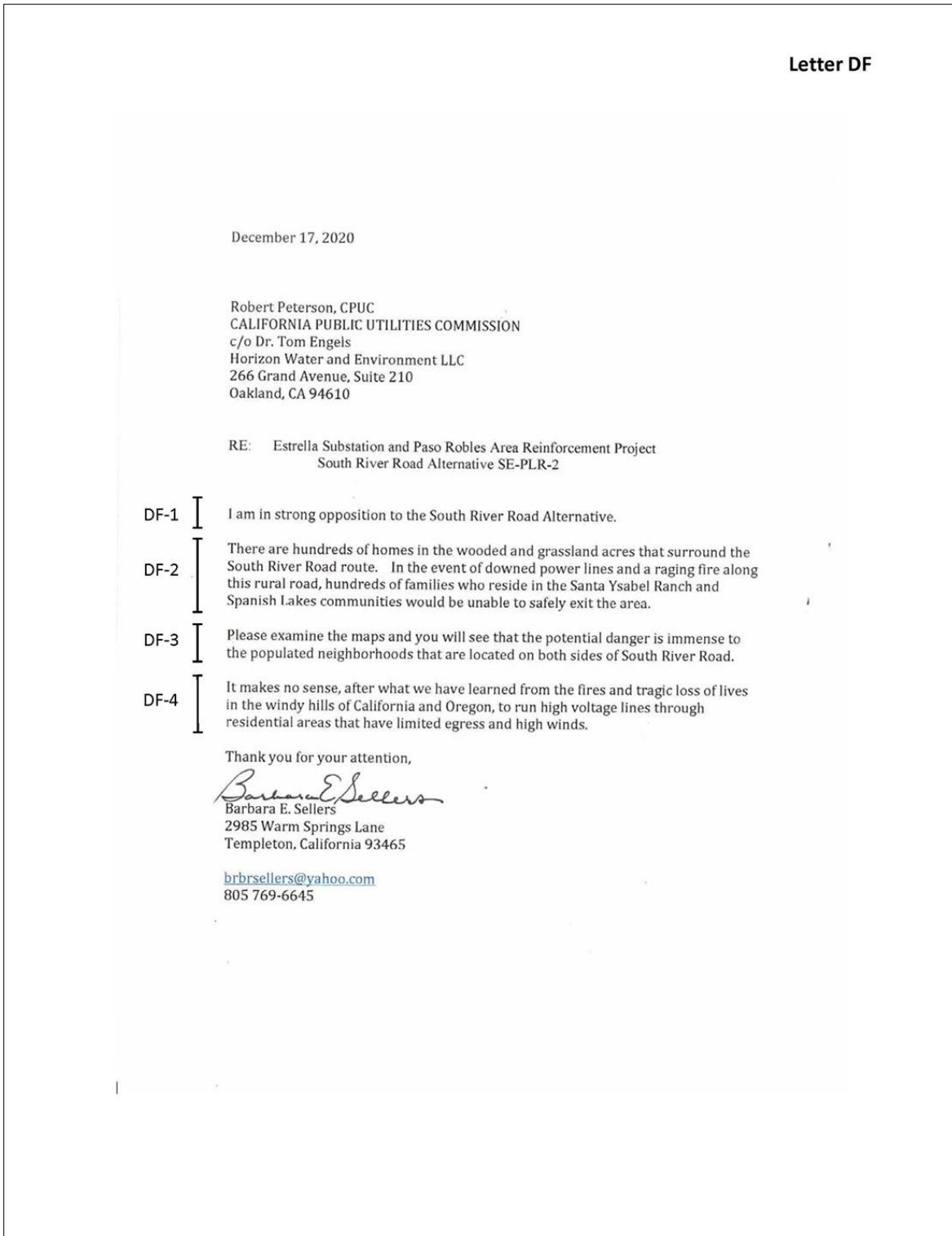
Response to Comment DE-3

The comment expresses concern that “the chart with the financial comparisons of each project” (presumably Table 5-3 in the EIR) may be misread to give a false impression that Alternative SE-PLR-2 is considerably less expensive than other alternatives. Table 5-3, Footnote 3, explains that the costs associated with the alternative combination including Alternative SE-PLR-2 would likely be higher than listed in the table. Note that the DEIR text mistakenly referred to Alternative Combination #3 instead of #4 in the referenced table footnote; however, this has been corrected in the FEIR (refer to Chapter 4, *Revisions to the DEIR* of this volume and Volume 1 of the FEIR).

Response to Comment DE-4

This comment does not raise issues regarding EIR adequacy and no response is required. Nevertheless, thank you for your comment.

Letter DF: Barbara E. Sellers (December 17, 2020)



Response to Comment DF-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 response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

Response to Comment DF-2

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

Response to Comment DF-3

Please refer to Response to Comment DF-2 for a response to the commenter's concern regarding wildfire impacts on the communities along South River Road.

Response to Comment DF-4

The comment expresses wildfire risk concerns regarding transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2, including wind and egress conditions. Please refer to Master Response 4.

Letter DG: Martha Silva (January 9, 2021)

Letter DG

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,

- DG-1 | My family and I oppose locating the power lines along South River Road as we believe it jeopardizes my family's safety should there be a fire and our exits are blocked by those lines.
- DG-2 | Please recognize our concerns and vote against running the lines along South River Road.

Thank you,

Martha Silva
2410 Battering Rock Road
Templeton, CA 93465

Response to Comment DG-1

The comment expresses concern about evacuation routes/ability in the event of a wildfire associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. For the CPUC's response to the commenter's evacuation concerns, please refer to Master Response 6. Please also refer to Master Response 4 for discussion of wildfire risk associated with the transmission lines. The commenter's opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2 is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

Response to Comment DG-2

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

Letter DH: Dale Sinor (January 19, 2021)

Letter DH

From: [Dale Sinor](#)
To: tom@horizonh2o.com
Subject: Estrella Substation
Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 8:27:59 AM
Attachments: [image0.jpeg](#)
[Untitled attachment 00188.txt](#)

Tom,

DH-1 | I have a few questions.

DH-2 | 1. My understanding is there will be no additional electric lines which means there should be no additional EMF, yet the project calls for raising the lines to reduce EMF, why is that?

DH-3 | 2. Is there an estimate as to the number of electrical outages we could experience during the project and how long? How will we be informed of this?

DH-4 | 2. I have a pole (8 133 T40652847 or 120584047) in the middle of my fenced and gated backyard. I would like the new pole to be moved 18 feet north along the existing line. This puts it on my property but outside my fenced and locked gate area. There is an 8 foot wide section between the sidewalk and my fence that would accommodate the pole. Who do I contact about requesting this change?

Thank you,

Dale Sinor
1706 Via Lantana
831 435-6893

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DH-4
cont.



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Response to Comment DH-1

The comment states the commenter has a few questions. This comment does not raise issues regarding EIR adequacy and no response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted.

Response to Comment DH-2

This comment requests additional information about new or additional electric lines and request clarification as to why raising the lines may reduce EMF. As discussed in Section 2.3, “Proposed Project Components,” of the FEIR, the Proposed Project is comprised of two main components: Estrella Substation and the 70 kV power line. The 70 kV power line involves the following main components:

- PG&E would construct, own and operate a new 70 kV double-circuit power line between the new 70 kV substation and the existing San Miguel-Paso Robles 70 kV power line.
- PG&E would reconductor and replace poles on a portion of the existing 70 kV power line between the interconnection point of the new 70 kV power line segment and Paso Robles Substation.

Along the reconductoring segment, the existing 70 kV conductor would be replaced with a larger conductor and a new common neutral wire and fiber line would be installed which may result in an increase in EMF emissions compared to the existing 70 kV conductor.

As discussed on pages 2-115 to 2-116 in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, in Volume 1 of the FEIR, EMF levels from transmission lines can be reduced by increasing the distance from the source. The distance between the source of fields and the public can be increased by either placing the wires higher aboveground, burying underground cables deeper, or by increasing the width of the right-of-way. For transmission lines, these methods can prove effective in reducing fields because the reduction of the field strength drops rapidly with distance. For more information pertaining to EMF, please refer to Section 2.9, “Electric and Magnetic Fields,” in Volume 1 of this FEIR. For the CPUC’s response to concerns related to EMF and effects on human health, refer to Master Response 2.

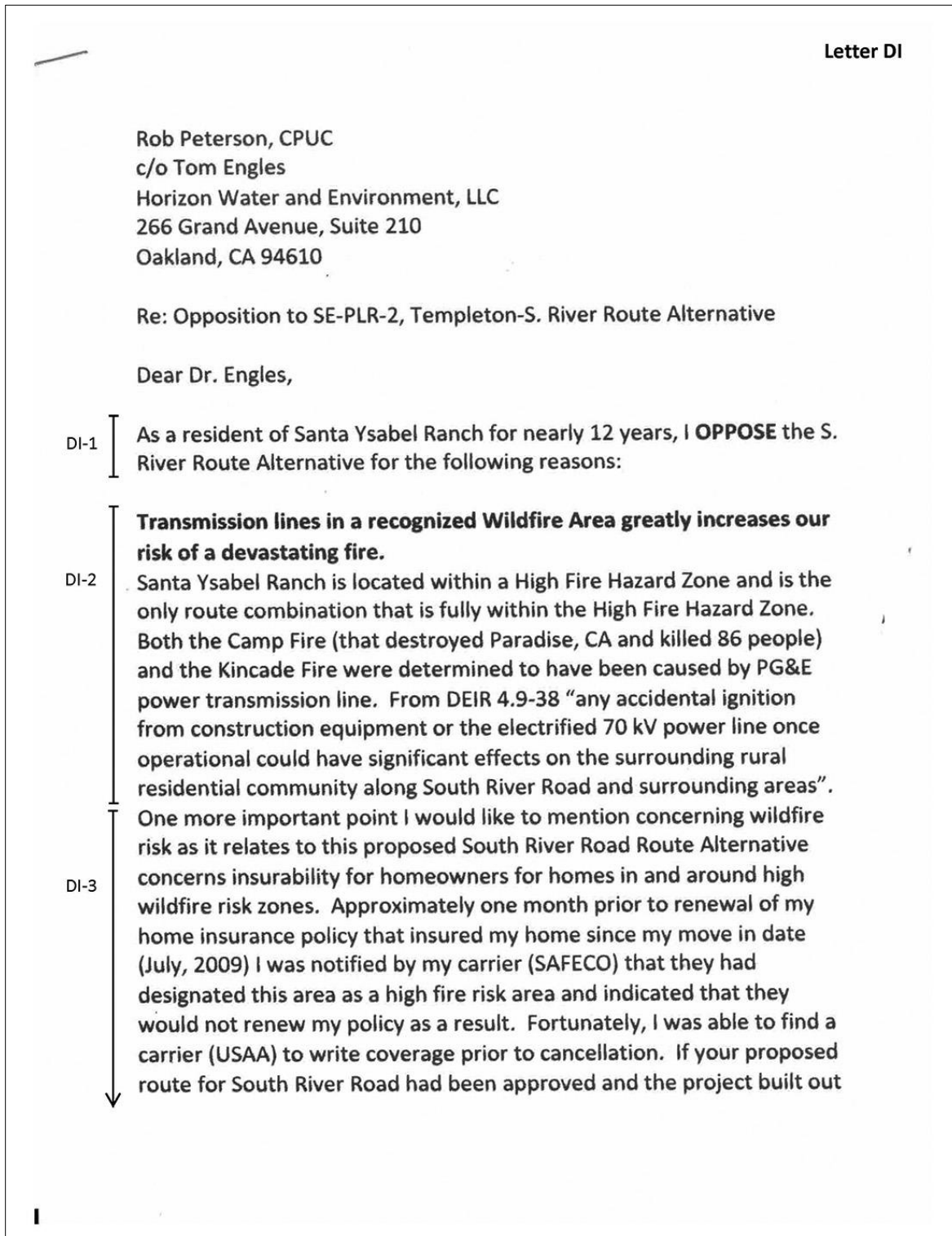
Response to Comment DH-3

This comment asks about the number of, and duration of, electrical outages that would be experienced by customers during Proposed Project construction. As described on page 2-78 in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, of Volume 1 of the FEIR, “sections of distribution lines that would cross the project or would be collocated on the new 70 kV power line segment may be temporarily taken out of service. As part of its normal operating procedures, PG&E’s Distribution System Operations group would coordinate taking the distribution lines out of service (i.e., taking a clearance). The Distribution System Operations group would assess how to accomplish the clearances, identify where and when clearances may occur, notify customers being served by the distribution line that power outages could occur, manage the clearances, and retain balance in the system by routing power to minimize customer outages.” At this time, the CPUC cannot provide an exact number of, or duration for, clearances required for the Proposed Project.

Response to Comment DH-4

This comment requests relocation of an existing pole on the commenter's property (requesting that the pole be moved 18 feet north along the existing line) and requests contact information for this request. This request for design modification, unrelated to significant environmental impacts, is outside the scope of CEQA and, therefore, cannot be addressed in this document. This comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers. The commenter is also encouraged to contact PG&E directly either via contact information provided in the relevant land conveyance, easement, or other right of way documentation provided to the commenter or via PG&E's Land Request process available at:

https://www.pge.com/en_US/about-pge/about-pge/land-use-and-sales/easement-and-property-requests.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_land

Letter DI: Brad L. Smith (January 22, 2021)

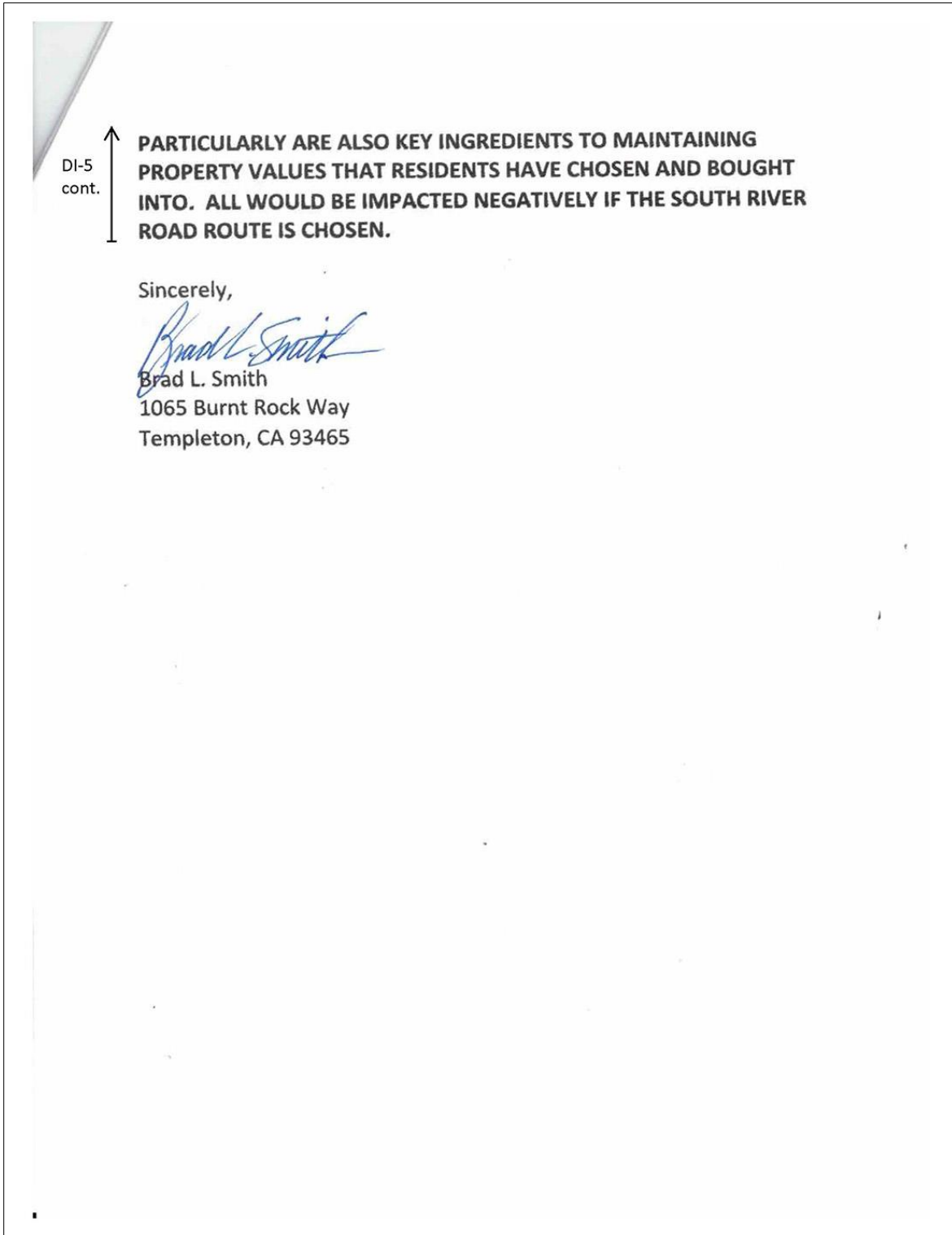
DI-3
cont. ↑ two years prior, I sincerely doubt that insurance carriers would be renewing coverages, given the increased risk that transmission lines would impose on their overall risk analysis.

DI-4 | **PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSED ROUTE TO PROCEED AS IT PLACES RESIDENTS IN AND AROUND THE ROUTE AREA AT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED RISK TO OUR HOMES, AND OUR LIVES!**

DI-5 ↓ **The pastoral “country life” beauty of South River Road and Santa Ysabel Ranch would be significantly decimated by 20 massive steel poles needed for high electric transmission lines.**

This is one of the last pastoral routes entering Paso Robles. Destroying the aesthetics and natural scenery of this route would be a real tragedy and it would significantly impact the quality of life that residents of this corridor and others enjoy and appreciate. Your proposed alignment is not consistent with San Luis Obispo County’s current General Plan which identifies aesthetics as a key factor contributing to the County’s “community character” and this includes goals and policies that bear directly on the preservation of aesthetic character and visual resources. Specifically, the Santa Ysabel Ranch gated HOA development with its 146 homesites within its +-650 acres (the majority of which is designated as common area) includes one of the few remaining Heritage Blue Oak forests in California. Each Blue Oak tree has a numbered tag on it’s trunk that the County required for identification purposes to preclude any removal without County approval. Several miles of walking trails exist for residents and their guests that meander up, down and throughout the Ranch, around its pond with ducks, mud hens, geese, great blue herons and egrets can be viewed. In addition, the Ranch has become a nesting site for several pairs of Golden Eagles and also occasional visits by Bald Eagles. Also, the Ranch is home to many other birds including various Hawk species, Great Horned Owls, Dove, Quail, and many, many others...

THESE ARE KEY AESTHETICS THAT SUPPORT THE COUNTY’S GENERAL PLAN FOR “COMMUNITY CHARACTER” AND VISUAL RESOURCES AND



Response to Comment DI-1

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

Response to Comment DI-2

The comment asserts that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2 would increase wildfire risk and notes that the alternative is in a High Fire Hazard Zone. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to potential increased wildfire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

Response to Comment DI-3

This comment expresses concern regarding impacts on the commenter's homeowner's insurance policy due to construction of Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to these concerns, please refer to Master Response 7.

Response to Comment DI-4

The comment states the Proposed Project places residents "at significantly increased risk" to the community's homes and lives. This comment does not raise specific concerns regarding the type of risk and associated impacts such that a response can be provided. Nevertheless, the comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

Response to Comment DI-5

The comment expresses general concern regarding the aesthetic impacts that would result from Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to aesthetic impacts from the high voltage overhead powerline and towers, please refer to Master Response 3.

In addition, the comment expresses concern that the "proposed alignment" is not consistent with the County's General Plan because the commenter states the General Plan identifies aesthetics as "one of the important factors contributing to the County's community character." It is assumed that the commenter is referring to the Alternative SE-PLR-2 alignment and alleging inconsistency between the General Plan and Alternative SE-PLR-2, which the remainder of the comment letter references. Please note that community character is not an environmental resource or physical characteristic defined in CEQA, and "CEQA does not require an analysis of subjective psychological feelings or social impacts." (*Preserve Poway v. City of Poway* (2016) 245 Cal. App.4th 560, 579.) Additionally, per CEQA Guidelines Section 15131, subdivision (a), social and economic effects are not considered environmental impacts pursuant to CEQA. The EIR references General Plan Goals and policies related to aesthetics (refer to Appendix A in Volume 2 of this FEIR). In addition, 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, Section 4.1, "Aesthetics," page 4.1-53). The EIR concluded that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would have significant and unavoidable aesthetic impacts (FEIR, Volume 1, pages 4.1-53 to 4.1-54). The comment does not

introduce any evidence, and no evidence exist in the record, that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would have significant undisclosed impacts; thus, no further environmental evaluation is required. Please refer to Master Response 3 for additional information related to the EIR's aesthetics analysis.

Additionally, the comment expresses concerns regarding impacts to heritage oaks, various wildlife, including golden and bald eagles, as well as other avian species. For the CPUC's response to these concerns, please refer to Master Responses 9 and 10.

Finally, the comment also mentions impacts to property values from implementation of Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to concerns regarding effects on property values, please refer to Master Response 7.

Letter DJ: Jim Spear (December 15, 2020)

Letter DJ

From: [Jim Spear](#)
To: estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com
Subject: Reconditioning Segment Pole Height
Date: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:55:00 PM

Horizon Team,

DJ-1 | Following today's presentation I have additional questions regarding the final pole height of the Reconditioning Segment north of the Paso Robles Substation. The diagrams in Section 2 of the proposal summarize the pole features as noted in fig 2-17. However, no information is provided for the existing or proposed pole heights. Also, do the proposed pole heights also apply to the River Road section between HWY 46 and Wellsona Rd.?

Best Regards,

Jim Spear

Response to Comment DJ-1

This comment requests details related to existing and proposed pole heights along the 70 kV reconductoring segment, north of Paso Robles Substation. As indicated in Table 2-5 of the EIR (refer to FEIR, Volume 1, Chapter 2, *Project Description*, pages 2-19 to 2-21), the reconductoring segment would use a combination of pole types, which would range in height (typically between 80 and 90 feet tall). Existing structures to be replaced along this segment also vary in height, but range between 50 and 80 feet in height. As discussed in Section 4.1, “Aesthetics” of Volume 1 of the FEIR (page 4.1-39) and in Master Response 3, replacement poles would typically be approximately 30 to 40 feet taller than the existing poles.

The commenter also asks specifically about pole heights for the reconductoring segment proposed between Wellsona Road and Highway 46, understood by the CPUC to be part of Alternative PLR-1A: Estrella Route to Estrella Substation (although a portion of the Proposed Project’s reconductoring segment is north of Highway 46). The existing and proposed pole heights for the reconductoring segment of Alternative PLR-1A would be similar to that of the Proposed Project. Specifically, the height of existing poles on the Alternative PLR-1A reconductoring segment are 45 to 87 feet tall. The portion of the reconductoring segment for Alternative PLR-1A between Wellsona Road and Highway 46 would use the same types of poles as are described for the Proposed Project reconductoring segment. Thus, the 70kV power line structures would vary in height depending on their location and purpose, but typically would range between 80 to 90 feet. Refer to Table 2-5 in Chapter 2, *Project Description* of the FEIR, Volume 1, for detailed information.

Letter DK: Terry Stegman (December 16, 2020)

Letter DK

From: [Terry Stegman](#)
To: estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com
Subject: Estrella Substation
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 9:51:42 AM

DK-1 I am strongly opposed to project #2 on the proposals for the Estrella substation. High power lines going down Goldenhill and across the back of Circle B would be a complete eyesore to our community and have a drastic impact on our property values. I'm not opposed to the 1st proposal.

Terry Stegman
2775 Rafter way
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Response to Comment DK-1

The commenter expresses opposition to “project #2”; however, it is unclear which “project” or alternative combination to which the commenter refers. Alternative Combination #2 is the “Estrella Route” alternative combination, made up of Estrella Substation, Alternative PLR-1A, Alternative BS-2, and Alternative BS-3. However, given that the commenter references impacts from “high power lines going down Goldenhill and across the back of Circle B,” it appears that the commenter is referring to the Proposed Project. Regardless, the CPUC notes the commenter’s general concern for visual resources and property values within the Golden Hill Road and Circle B surrounding area.

The commenter raises general aesthetic concerns and states the Proposed Project would be an “eyesore” to the community and impact property values. In response to general concerns related to adverse impacts to aesthetics, please refer to Section 4.1, “Aesthetics,” of the EIR (refer to Volume 1 of this FEIR), which includes a detailed analysis of impacts to the surrounding area that would result from the Proposed Project and alternatives. For the CPUC’s response to comments related to potential impacts on property values, please refer to Master Response 7.

Letter DL: David M. Taylor (January 5, 2021)

Letter DL

January 5, 2021

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

Re: We oppose the SE-PLR-2 Templeton-S. River Route Alternative

Dear Dr. Engels,

DL-1 We are writing this letter in opposition to the S. River Route Alternative. It is our belief and concern that the placement of these power lines would create a significant fire danger, potentially cause health concerns for local residents, impact the health and safety of our local wildlife, cause damage or loss to the oak trees, and impact the beauty of our neighborhood.

DL-2 **High Fire Hazard Zone:** The proposed transmission lines would be located along River Road, inside Santa Ysabel Ranch (SYR), which is a documented High Fire Hazard Zone being an area dense with brush and trees, and frequent high winds and low humidity. Our hot summer afternoon winds could blow a wildfire through the entirety of SYR within minutes. The steep hill of the Blue Oak forest would mean that the fire would climb very quickly, spreading to more homes and impacting evacuation. Should the River Road escape route be impacted by fire, all residents, and visiting/working non-residents, would be required to evacuate through the single-lane Hanging Tree gate, likely as emergency vehicles are attempting to come in! Please consider the residents of Santa Ysabel Ranch as SYR is home to many aging residents, some with mobility issues, who may have difficulty escaping their home in the case of a wildfire.

DL-3 An additional concern as it relates to fire danger, is specific to our location on Warm Springs Lane (WSL). WSL is a single entrance, dead-end road with 15 homesites on which 11 have completed homes. If a fire should impact access to the entrance to our street near the main gate, the residents of WSL would have no outlet through which to escape. Consider also, several homes on WSL, not unlike several other streets in SYR, have long driveways surrounded by brush and trees. Many lots, including ours, are completely surrounded by brush, trees, and drainage ravines, and we literally have no other way to leave our homes if our street or driveway is blocked by fire. The risk of a fire being ignited by equipment or a live power line during a several-month construction period is too great. 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, and we implore you not to put us at this same risk by allowing this route to proceed.

DL-4 **Wildlife:** Santa Ysabel Ranch is home to several Golden Eagles with an occasional sighting of Bald Eagles who would be endangered by high power lines on S. River Rd. as it is a known wildlife migration path. We are concerned for these protected birds as they could be killed in a collision with the power lines or possibly electrocuted since the power lines would be within their flight paths and flight elevation. In addition to the eagles, SYR is home to hawks, owls, egrets, herons, ducks, geese, and cormorants, all of



DL-4 cont. ↑ whom fly around South River Road and through SYR to our acres of trees and brush, and to our lake. The power lines may be difficult to for the birds to see, especially in the darkness of night as there are no street lights in our neighborhood.

DL-5 | **Environment, Oak Trees and Heritage:** The beauty of South River Road and SYR would be destroyed by the massive steel poles. This road is lined with large Heritage Oak trees, and installing the poles would require removal of some of those trees. The loss of trees of that age, size and stature would be devastating and irreplaceable. This is one of the last pastoral routes entering Paso. To destroy this scenic route would be a tragedy and the proposed alignment is not consistent with SLO County's current General Plan which identifies aesthetics as one of the important factors contributing to the County's "community character."

DL-6 | Santa Ysabel Ranch has been deemed sensitive for cultural resources. Several sites on SYR are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places due to the important Chumash and Salinan artifacts discovered during the environmental study done for the development. One of those sites is within the proposed pole locations. Disturbing this sight would be tragic and unnecessary,

DL-7 | Growth for Paso Robles is expected to happen north and east, near the Paso Robles Airport, which is the most appropriate placement of the substation. Templeton has no capacity for substantial residential or commercial growth, and we should not have to shoulder the burden for the growth in developing areas. Additionally, 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? The energy required for our area, Paso Robles 1107, is small enough that it can be accomplished with battery or thermal storage. This is such a high cost to our neighborhood, our wildlife and our fire safety, for the local need being so small at .53MW.

DL-8 | For the sake of public safety, environmental, historical, and wildlife preservation, please do not put a transmission line along S. River Road.

Sincerely,

 David M. Taylor

 K. DeAnn Taylor
 2525 Warm Springs Lane
 Templeton, CA 93465

Response to Comment DL-1

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route is noted. Specific concerns listed in this comment (fire danger, health concerns for local residents, health and safety of local wildlife, damage or loss to oak trees, and impacts to the beauty of the neighborhood) are addressed in subsequent Responses to Comments DL-2, DL-3, DL-4, DL-5, DL-6, and DL-7, which raise more specific concerns, below. For the CPUC's response to concerns regarding health effects from EMF, refer to Master Response 2.

Response to Comment DL-2

This comment asserts that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2 would increase wildfire risk. The comment notes that the alternative is in a High Fire Hazard Zone and describes the characteristics of the Santa Ysabel Ranch area that make it susceptible to wildfire. The comment also expresses concerns regarding evacuation routes/ability and emergency vehicle access in the event of a wildfire associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2.

For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to increased wildfire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to potential impacts to evacuation routes and emergency vehicle access, please refer to Master Response 6.

Response to Comment DL-3

The comment expresses further concern regarding increased wildfire risk from the transmission lines and impacts to evacuation routes, specifically Warm Springs Lane (a single entrance, dead end road) in the event of a wildfire. Considering Warm Springs Lane currently has only one entrance, evacuation concerns in the event of a fire is an existing issue. However, for the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to increased wildfire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4. Furthermore, for discussion of potential impacts to evacuation routes and emergency vehicle access related to Alternative SE-PLR-2, please refer to Master Response 6.

Response to Comment DL-4

The comment alleges risks for birds as they could be electrocuted or collide with the power lines and power lines may be difficult for birds to see at night that would be associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to concerns and comments regarding golden eagles and other avian species, please refer to Master Response 9. Additionally, as discussed in Master Response 9, bird diverters will be placed on new power lines in golden eagle territories which would assist in preventing collisions with power lines at night.

Response to Comment DL-5

The comment expresses general concern regarding the aesthetic impacts that would result from Alternative SE-PLR-2. Please refer to Master Response 3 for a discussion regarding the aesthetic analysis for Alternative SE-PLR-2. The commenter's opposition to this alternative is noted and will be shared with decisionmakers.

In addition, the comment expresses concern that the "proposed alignment" is not consistent with the County's General Plan because the General Plan identifies aesthetics as "one of the

important factors contributing to the County’s community character.” It is assumed that the comment is referring to Alternative SE-PLR-2 and alleging inconsistency between the General Plan and Alternative SE-PLR-2, which the remainder of the comment letter references. The EIR references General Plan goals and policies related to aesthetics (refer to Appendix A in Volume 2 of the FEIR). In addition, 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, page 4.1-53). The EIR concluded that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would have significant and unavoidable aesthetic impacts (FEIR, Volume 1, page 4.1-53 to 4.1-54). The comment does not introduce any evidence, and no evidence exists in the record, that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would have new or more severe significant undisclosed impacts; thus, no further environmental evaluation is required.

The comment also expresses concern regarding removal of heritage oak trees. For the CPUC’s response to comments and concerns regarding heritage oaks, refer to Master Response 10.

Response to Comment DL-6

The commenter expresses concerns about disturbing archaeological sites and impacting cultural resources in Santa Ysabel Ranch. Impacts to cultural resources from Alternative SE-PLR-2 are addressed in the EIR in Section 4.5.4, on page 4.5-28, within Section 4.5, “Cultural Resources,” in Volume 1 of the FEIR. 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. As discussed on pages 4.5-15 to 4.5-16 of the FEIR, unanticipated discovery of cultural resources during construction 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, in the event of a discovery of unanticipated cultural materials during construction, all construction work within 50 feet of the discovery would cease and the principal investigator would be consulted to assess the find.

Response to Comment DL-7

This comment asserts that growth for Paso Robles is expected to happen north and east, and that the Templeton area does not have capacity for growth. The comment also claims that the project should be forward-thinking, as an example of what can be done to solve energy needs in California. Further, the comment alleges that the area’s energy needs are small and could be satisfied with other technologies. For the CPUC’s response to these comments, including a discussion regarding the Proposed Project’s purpose and objectives, please refer to Master Response 8.

Response to Comment DL-8

The comment reiterates general concerns regarding public safety, environmental, historical, and wildlife preservation that has been addressed in the above Responses to Comment DL-2, DL-3, DL-4, DL-5, DL-6, and DL-7 above; please refer to those responses.

Letter DM: Geoff Thompson (December 23, 2020)

Letter DM

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

December 23, 2020

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

Dear Dr. Engels,

DM-1 | We've just spent a great deal of time, effort and money to make SYR as safe from wildfire that originates outside our perimeter as possible. Unfortunately, a fire that starts inside the ranch will not be as easy to deal with due to our steep and heavily wooded terrain. 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.

DM-2 | We are lucky, because of our low density, to be home to a number of threatened wildlife species. 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.

DM-3 | For the sake of our safety and that of our wildlife, please do not put a transmission line along South River Road.

Regards,



Geoff Thompson
 2424 Battering Rock Rd.
 Templeton, CA 93465

Response to Comment DM-1

The comment alleges that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route would increase wildfire risk and notes that the alternative alignment is in a High Fire Hazard Zone. 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.

Response to Comment DM-2

The comment expresses concern about the power lines associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2 and the risk of golden eagles colliding with, or being electrocuted by, the lines. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding golden eagles, refer to Master Response 9.

Response to Comment DM-3

This comment raises general concerns regarding safety and wildlife in expressing opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2. As discussed above, refer to Master Response 4 for a discussion of fire safety and Master Response 9 for a discussion of potential impacts to birds and avoidance measures.

Letter DN: John and Linda Tubb (December 17, 2020)

Letter DN

John & Linda Tubb
 1640 Circle B Road
 Paso Robles, CA 93446
 (805) 674-1240
jklt47@gmail.com

12/17/2020

Rob Peterson, c/o Tom Engles
 Horizon Water & Environment
 400 Capital Mall
 Sacramento, CA. 95814

TO: Rob Peterson
 RE: Estrella Substation, Paso Robles, CA.

Dear Mr. Peterson:

DN-1 | Here are some of the reasons we are OPPOSED to this project:

- DN-2 | 1) ASETHICS: The reason we live here (1640 Circle B Rd) is BECAUSE OF
 THE BEAUTIFUL VIEW TO THE NORTH! Your lines & helicopter
 landing sites are right in that view shed! What are you thinking? This will
 adversely impact my property value up to \$250,000.
- DN-3 | 2) EMS: My vineyard comes within 30' of the proposed lines, which is
 another factor which will impact my property value and possibly my health,
 and the health of any workers.
- DN-4 | 3) There are many other alternative ways to accomplish this project:
 a) DO NOT DO IT AT ALL.
 b) Choose a route west along 46, north on Buena Vista, or No. River Rd.
 There are already ugly power lines there, and less impact on property
 owners.
 c) UNDERGROUND any path that impacts property owner's views.
 d) Choose the route along Charolais Rd.



Response to Comment DN-1

The commenter provides an introduction to the remainder of the comment letter expressing opposition to the Proposed Project. This comment does not raise issues regarding EIR adequacy and no response is required.

Response to Comment DN-2

The comment expresses concern regarding the aesthetic impacts of the Proposed Project. Please refer to Master Response 3 for a discussion regarding the aesthetic analysis of replacement poles.

The commenter argues the Proposed Project would adversely impact property values. For the CPUC's response to comments related to potential impacts on property values, please refer to Master Response 7.

Response to Comment DN-3

This comment pertains to construction of power line infrastructure near the commenter's vineyard and mentions concerns related to EMF and effects on human health.

For the CPUC's response to concerns related to EMF, please refer to Master Response 2.

Response to Comment DN-4

This comment suggests alternative routes to the Proposed Project, including a route west along SR 46, north on Buena Vista, or No. River Road. The comment suggests undergrounding transmission lines that would impact property owners' views. The commenter expresses general opposition to the Proposed Project, and support for "the route along Charolais Road." As described in Chapter 3, *Alternatives Description*, in Volume 1 of the FEIR, the CPUC developed a range of reasonable, potentially feasible alternatives to the Proposed Project in compliance with CEQA requirements, including undergrounding. Please refer to Chapter 3, *Alternative Description*, for a discussion of the various alternatives reviewed. For additional information on the alternatives development process, refer to the Final Alternatives Screening Report (ASR), which is included as Appendix B to the FEIR (refer to Volume 2). Furthermore, please refer to Master Response 3 for a discussion of aesthetic impacts from the Proposed Project and Master Response 8 for a discussion of the project alternatives process.

As described in Master Response 8, the CEQA Guidelines make clear that "An EIR need not consider every conceivable alternative to a project" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6). While the EIR considered Alternatives PLR-1A and PLR-1C, which would route the 70 kV alignment north of Paso Robles and connect with the existing line along North River Road further to the north of the Proposed Project 70 kV power line alignment, the suggested routes along Highway 46 and Buena Vista Drive were not considered. Refer to the Final ASR for the rationale for including the alternatives that were evaluated in the EIR. This comment is noted and will be shared with decisionmakers.

Letter DO: Carlos Valdez (January 19, 2021)

Letter DO	
	<p>Rob Peterson, CPUC C/O Tom Engels Horizon Water and Environment, LLC 266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210 Oakland, CA 94610</p> <p>Dear Dr. Engels,</p> <p>DO-1 I oppose the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton – Paso South River Road Route.</p> <p>DO-2 Writing to you voicing my concerns for this project and the impact it will have on all residents in the area. Fire risk is my biggest worry SE-PLR-2 will place on the residents of Saint Ysabel Ranch and the surrounding areas. California has been experiencing severe drought and will continue to according to climate scientists and meteorologists; Californians felt the devastating affects of this pattern over the last three years during the state’s biggest fires in history. PG&E’s transmission lines have already been faulted for the Camp Fire (Nov 2018) and the Kincade Fire (Oct 2019) thus it would be unwise to construct the very same transmission lines in an area that has been deemed a high fire hazard zone.</p> <p>DO-3 Another concern I want to express is the damage SE-PLR-2 will have on the ecosystem of Saint Ysabel Ranch and the surrounding areas. The California native oak trees are what drew me to the Paso Robles area. Their beauty is in danger again because of the foreseeable fire hazard. Even if you do not believe in this potential hazard, what is imminent is the removal of these trees to make room for the transmission lines. I believe these Oak trees are apart of defining the community character of Saint Ysabel Ranch and should not be sacrificed for this project. Vegetation is not the only part of the ecosystem that would be impacted — the local Golden Eagle and Bald Eagle population would be endangered by these massive constructs. Please do your part to help preserve California’s great natural beauty.</p> <p>Thank you for your time reading this letter,</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div> <p>Carlos Valdez 2195 Warm Springs Lane Templeton CA, 93465</p>

Response to Comment DO-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 response is required.

Response to Comment DO-2

The comment alleges that transmission lines associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2 would increase wildfire risk, noting that the alternative alignment is located in a High Fire Hazard Zone. 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.

Response to Comment DO-3

The comment reiterates concern about wildfire hazards and also expresses concern over the removal of oak trees, golden and bald eagles. The commenter also raises concerns regarding the "community character" of Saint Ysabel Ranch. For the CPUC's response to these concerns, please refer to Master Response 4 (Increased Fire Risk), Master Response 9 (Golden Eagles), and Master Response 10 (Heritage Oak Trees). Community character is not an environmental resource of physical characteristic defined in CEQA. "CEQA does not require an analysis of subjective psychological feelings or social impacts." (*Preserve Poway v. City of Poway* (2016) 245 Cal. App.4th 560, 579.) Additionally, per CEQA Guidelines Section 15131, subdivision (a), social and economic effects are not considered environmental impacts pursuant to CEQA.

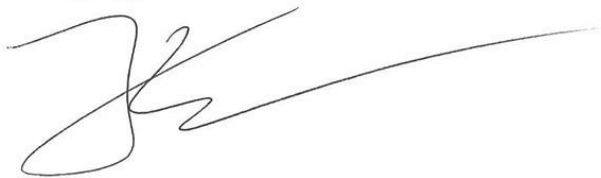
Letter DP: Johnny Valdez (January 19, 2021)**Letter DP**

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

Dear Dr. Engels,

- DP-1 | I oppose the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton – Paso South River Road Route.
- DP-2 | Learn from the mistakes of others throughout California. SLO county has so far been spared the tragedy of a major fire such as the ones in Sonoma County and LA County. Please do not proceed to build these PG&E transmission lines in a high fire hazard zone. Year after year Sonoma has been hit with fires that seem to surpass the year prior in devastation and cost to its residents with PG&E bearing most of the blame. Energy needs can always be changed but the damage from a great fire cannot. That is why I urge you to stop consideration of SE-PLR-2 before it is too late.
- DP-3 | Another consideration is why has this area (a high fire hazard zone) been chosen? It is my knowledge that there will not major community development in the proposed construction area. Whereas actual development and community expansion has been planned near the Paso Robles airport. Furthermore, California has been promising its residents newer technology in the energy department. Have other options even been explored to address this energy concern? Please do not settle when you can show the community your department is forward thinking and considers the community in your decisions.
- DP-4 |

Sincerely,



Johnny Valdez
 2195 Warm Springs Lane
 Templeton CA, 93465

Response to Comment DP-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 response is required.

Response to Comment DP-2

The comment alleges that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2 would increase wildfire risk, noting that the alternative is in a High Fire Hazard Zone. For CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to increased wildfire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

Additionally, the commenter states that energy needs can always be changed and urges Alternative SE-PLR 2 to be rejected. Energy needs can change; however, as discussed in the EIR, population in San Luis Obispo County is expected to increase; therefore, energy needs are expected to increase. On page 2-13, in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, in Volume 1 of the FEIR, the FEIR states, "Overall, City planners are estimating a nearly 50 percent increase in the population of Paso Robles by 2045." However, the distribution/load growth aspects are only one part of the Proposed Project's objectives. As described in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, in Volume 1 of the FEIR, CPUC identified two CEQA objectives for the Proposed Project, as follows:

Transmission Objective: Mitigate thermal overload and low voltage concerns in the Los Padres 70 kV system during Category B contingency scenarios, as identified by the CAISO in its 2013-2014 Transmission Plan.

Distribution Objective: Accommodate expected future increased electric distribution demand in the Paso Robles DPA, particularly in the anticipated growth areas in northeast Paso Robles.

Alternative SE-PLR-2 is one project alternative, of many, that meets these project objectives (when paired with one or more other alternatives) and will be reviewed by the CPUC. The EIR considered Alternative BS-3: Behind-the-Meter Solar and Battery Storage, which would involve behind-the-meter (BTM) solar and battery storage, and may also include other Distributed Energy Resources (DER) technologies, such as energy efficiency or demand response (FEIR, Volume 1, page 3-136). In this respect, the EIR considered approaches that would potentially change energy needs. However, as noted above, the Transmission Objective of the Proposed Project could not be met through DERs alone. Alternative BS-3 would be included along with Alternative SE-PLR-2 as part of Alternative Combination #4, as discussed in Chapter 5, *Alternatives Analysis Summary and Comparison of Alternatives*, in Volume 1 of the FEIR. The commenter's general opposition to Alternative SE-PLR 2 is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

Response to Comment DP-3

This comment questions why the area including Alternative SE-PLR-2 was chosen as a potential alignment for a new transmission line. The commenter notes that there will not be major community development in this area, while projected growth is anticipated near the Paso Robles Airport. For the CPUC's response to these comments, including alternative alignments, please refer to Master Response 8.

Response to Comment DP-4

This comment inquires about the use of newer alternative technologies and solutions to resolve energy needs. Please refer to Master Response 8 for a discussion of alternative technologies available to address energy needs.

Letter DQ: Shally Valdez (January 19, 2021)**Letter DQ**

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

Dear Dr. Engels,

DQ-1 I oppose the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton – Paso South River Road Route.

DQ-2 Please hear my apprehension to this proposed project. There has been a trend for numerous fires destroying California and endangering people and their property year after year. I oppose SE-PLR-2 for the increased fire potential Saint Ysabel Ranch and the adjacent areas will experience if the project is to proceed. The Kincade Fire burned approximately 77,000 acres in Northern California and the residents of Sonoma County have had tremendous difficulty recovering and it is my concern the devastating affects a fire could have on communities such as Templeton and Paso Robles. PG&E has shown themselves to be unreliable maintaining their infrastructure and I do not feel confident and safe constructing transmission lines in a high fire hazard zone. It is also very possible for a fire to start during construction of these lines due to the readily available tinder in the proposed construction areas. Specifically, to Saint Ysabel Ranch this community's layout is not advantageous for fire crews to respond to a fire while the community of 125+ homes/families would try to evacuate along S. River Road.

DQ-3 In addition to the potential the immediate impact would be felt through property value and resale potential. Saint Ysabel Ranch is coveted for its serenity and peace of mind but that would be stripped away with this project. The SLO county is known for its gorgeous aesthetic and relaxing environment and I feel this project would deter future investments to the area.

DQ-4 I appreciate your willingness to remove SE-PLR-2 from further consideration — Sincerely,


 Shally Valdez
 2195 Warm Springs Lane
 Templeton CA, 93465

Response to Comment DQ-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 response is required.

Response to Comment DQ-2

The comment alleges that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2 would increase wildfire risk, noting that the alternative alignment is in a High Fire Hazard Zone. The comment also alleges the possibility of a wildfire to be started during construction activities and potential impacts to evacuation routes and emergency response for Santa Ysabel Ranch in the event of a fire. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to increased wildfire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to potential impacts to evacuation routes/ability and emergency response, please refer to Master Response 6.

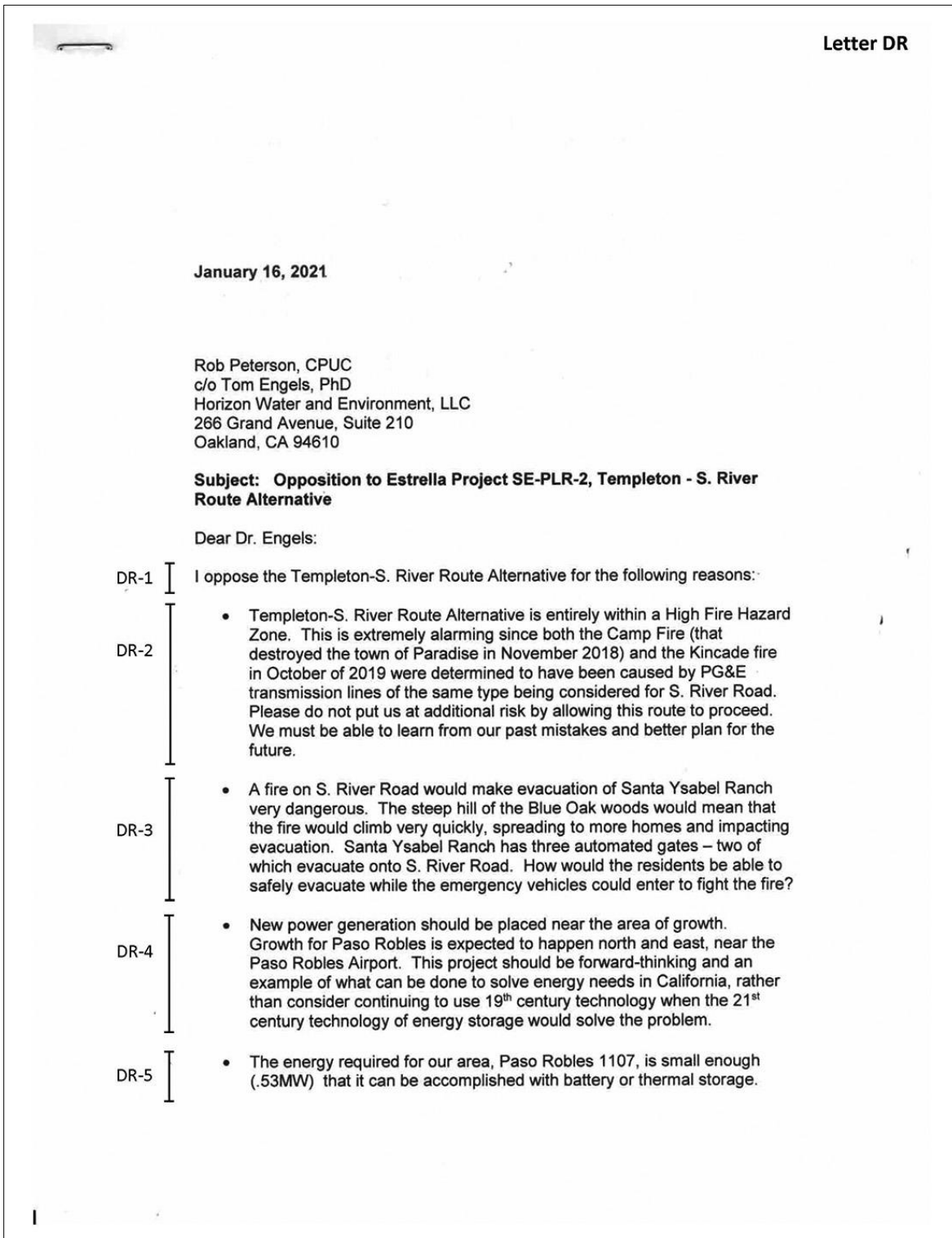
Response to Comment DQ-3

This comment expresses concerns related to potential impacts to property values from Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the CPUC's response to these comments, please refer to Master Response 7.

Response to Comment DQ-4

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

Letter DR: Cindee Van Vleck (January 16, 2021)



DR-6 | Templeton has no capacity for substantial residential or commercial growth, and a power line on S. River Road is contrary to the California policy targeting non-wire alternatives.

DR-7 |

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

DR-8 | The risk to our personal safety, our neighborhood, our wildlife and our overall fire danger would be raised significantly. For the sake of public safety and wildlife preservation, please do not put a transmission line along S. River Road.

Sincerely,



Cindee Van Vleck
1275 Fire Rock Loop
Templeton, CA 93465

Response to Comment DR-1

The commenter provides an introduction to the remainder of the comment letter expressing opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. This comment does not raise issues of EIR adequacy and no response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with decisionmakers.

Response to Comment DR-2

The comment alleges that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2 would increase wildfire risk, noting that the alternative alignment is in a High Fire Hazard Zone. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to increased wildfire risk from construction and operation of transmission lines, please refer to Master Response 4.

Response to Comment DR-3

The comment expresses concern about evacuation routes/ability and emergency vehicle access 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.

Response to Comment DR-4

This comment suggests locating new power generation near the area of growth, suggesting the area near the Paso Robles Airport. The comment recommends for this project to use "forward-thinking" technologies "to solve energy needs in California". 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 DR-5

The comment claims that energy needs in the area are small enough that they can be met with other technologies. Please refer to Master Response 8.

Response to Comment DR-6

This comment asserts that Templeton does not have capacity for substantial residential or commercial growth, and argues that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would be contrary to the California policy targeting "non-wire" alternatives. Please refer to Master Response 8.

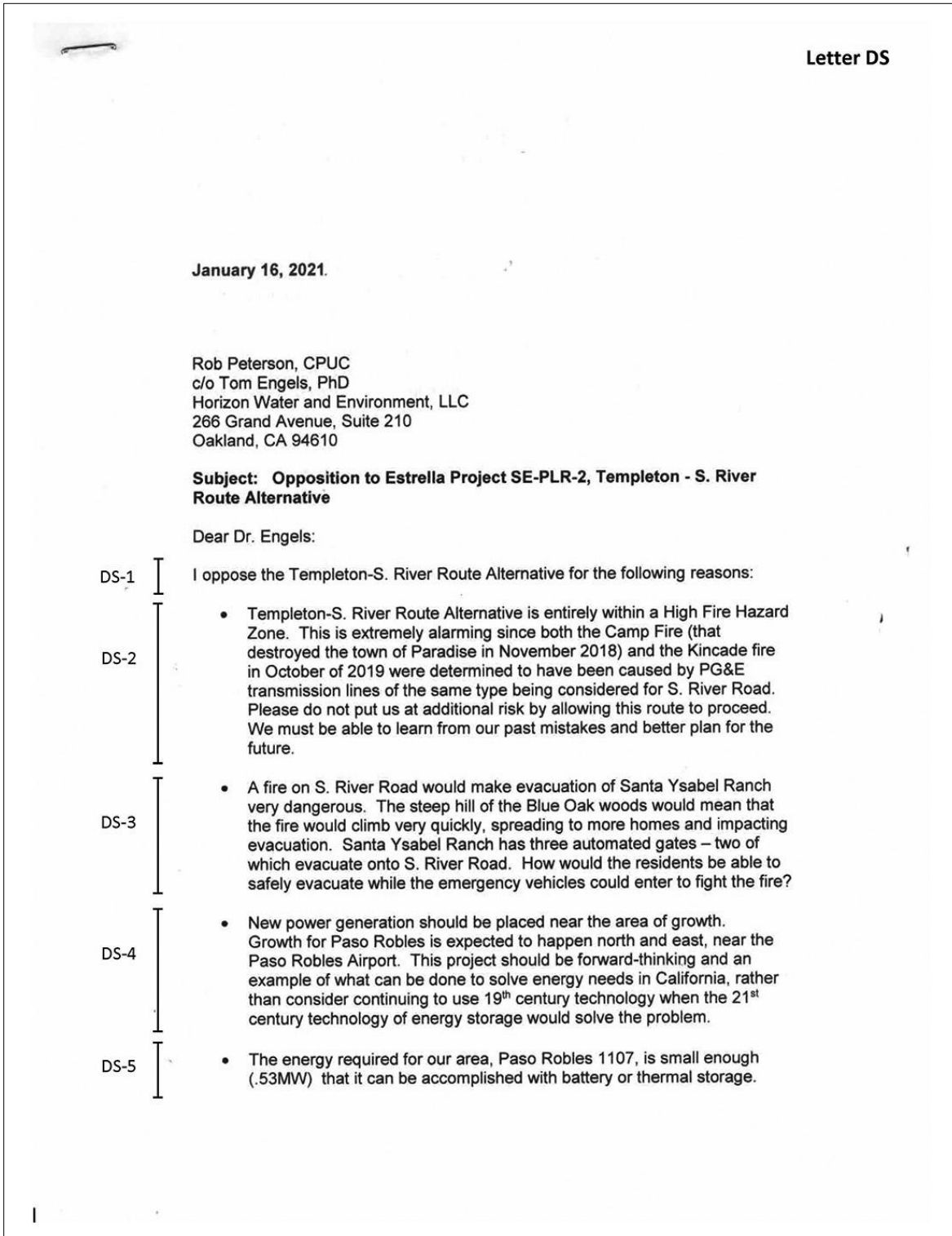
Response to Comment DR-7

The comment expresses concern about the power lines associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2 and the risk of golden eagles colliding with, or being electrocuted by, the lines. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding golden eagles, refer to Master Response 9.

Response to Comment DR-8

The comment again reiterates general concerns regarding safety, wildlife, and wildfire that were previously raised. Please refer to Responses to Comments DR-2, DR-3, DR-4, DR-5, DR-6, and DR-7 above for responses to these specific concerns.

Letter DS: Keith W. Van Vleck (January 16, 2021)



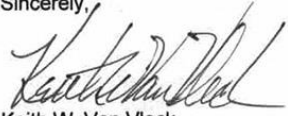
DS-6 | Templeton has no capacity for substantial residential or commercial growth, and a power line on S. River Road is contrary to the California policy targeting non-wire alternatives.

DS-7 |

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

DS-8 | The risk to our personal safety, our neighborhood, our wildlife and our overall fire danger would be raised significantly. For the sake of public safety and wildlife preservation, please do not put a transmission line along S. River Road.

Sincerely,



Keith W. Van Vleck
1275 Fire Rock Loop
Templeton, CA 93465

Response to Comment DS-1

This letter reiterates the comments found in Letter DR and is an exact duplicate of that letter; therefore, please refer to Response to Comment DR-1.

Response to Comment DS-2

Refer to Response to Comment DR-2.

Response to Comment DS-3

Refer to Response to Comment DR-3.

Response to Comment DS-4

Refer to Response to Comment DR-4.

Response to Comment DS-5

Refer to Response to Comment DR-5.

Response to Comment DS-6

Refer to Response to Comment DR-6.

Response to Comment DS-7

Refer to Response to Comment DR-7.

Response to Comment DS-8

Refer to Response to Comment DR-8.

Letter DT: James R. Walti (December 20, 2020)**Letter DT**

December 20, 2020

Rob Peterson, CPUC
 C/O Tom Engels
 Horizon Water and Environmental, LLC
 266 Grand Ave, Suite 210
 Oakland, CA 94610

RE: Opposition to SE-PLR-2, Templeton-S. River Rout Alternative

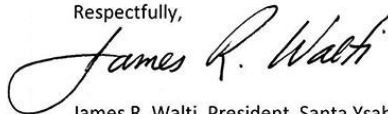
Dear Dr, Engels,

DT-1 I oppose the S. River Route Alternative. Simply stated, the Santa Ysabel Ranch property and surrounding areas already are way over-burdened with huge, high, above-ground power distribution lines on the South, West, and East boundaries of the area. Two of the largest power transmissions lines in the Central Coast area of California coming from Diablo Canyon already burden the south and east sides of our subdivision. On the west side, PGE also has a significant power transmission line along the Nacimiento water line right of way. Now the utility wants to completely surround the community with another, huge, above ground transmission system, significantly, negatively impacting the community. I'm not aware of any community in California that is so negatively impacted by being surrounded by such huge, above ground transmission lines in a concentrated area as Santa Ysabel Ranch and adjacent communities.

DT-2 The jury is still out on the negative impact of high capacity power lines on public health. There is mounting evidence that the electro magnetic radiation from such high power systems has a negative impact on public health. Thus, adding yet another, high power, above ground transmission line so close to a residential community as Santa Ysabel Ranch may subject residents to much more electromagnetic radiation than is reasonable. This future liability, in itself, should counsel not adding to the problem by completely overburdening this community on all sides by high power, above ground transmission lines.

DT-3 If the South River Road transmission corridor is still preferred by PGE/CPUC, then I would support undergrounding this 3-4 mile stretch along South River Road. Again, if you look at the current distribution lines bordering our community, it is not fair to so severely over-burden one community with this level of high transmission lines in such a small area.

Respectfully,



James R. Walti, President, Santa Ysabel Ranch Mutual Water Company & SYR Resident
 1870 Hanging Tree Lane
 Templeton, CA 93465

Response to Comment DT-1

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. The commenter provides a description of existing above-ground distribution and transmission lines in the vicinity of Santa Ysabel Ranch, and argues that this area is already substantially negatively impacted by these facilities. The CPUC considered the existing transmission lines in its environmental analysis as part of the baseline for assessing environmental impacts under CEQA. The EIR also considered existing transmission lines in its cumulative analysis in Section 6.5.3, Chapter 6, *Other Statutory Consideration and Cumulative Impacts*, in Volume 1 of the FEIR. The FEIR found that Alternative SE-PLR-2 would have a significant and unavoidable impact on existing visual character.

Response to Comment DT-2

This comment expresses concerns related to construction of high voltage power line infrastructure near the commenter's residential community along Alternative SE-PLR-2. Specifically, the commenter mentions concerns related to EMF and effects on human health.

For the CPUC's response to concerns related to EMF, please refer to Master Response 2.

Response to Comment DT-3

This comment does not raise issues regarding EIR adequacy and no response is required. Nevertheless, the commenter's support for undergrounding the transmission line in the event that Alternative SE-PLR-2 is chosen is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

Letter DU: Margaret and Larry Ward (December 22, 2020)**Letter DU**

Rob Peterson, CPUC
 % Tom Engels
 Horizon Water and Environment, LLC
 266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210
 Oakland, Ca 94610

December 22, 2020

Dear Dr Engels,

DU-1 We oppose the S River Route Alternative to SE-PLR-2 in Templeton. The poles for the transmission lines would be hard to ignore and the beauty of the area dramatically impacted in a negative way. The removal of Heritage Oak trees to install the poles could be significant and they are irreplaceable. Obviously the impact on property values would be devastating for those who own properties in the area. Besides the obtrusiveness of the structures to be installed there are several risks involved that we feel negate the benefits of the project. For all these reasons we oppose this project. Some of the risks are listed below.

FIRE RISK

DU-2 The proposed area is considered as a High Fire Hazard Zone. The proposed transmission lines are similar to the ones that caused recent fires in California, meaning this could happen here. There is plenty of dry grasses and forested areas to fuel any fire that might occur. The narrow, winding rural roads would make the evacuations very difficult should a fire take place in this area with the Santa Ysabel Ranch Community especially at risk for evacuation due to gates at the exits slowing the departure of the residents. The risk is too great.

HEALTH RISKS

DU-3 Several homes would be within 200 feet of the proposed poles which is too close to the electromagnetic field generated by a high voltage transmission line. Human habitation should be at least 800-1200 feet away according to the recommended safety zone.

GOLDEN EAGLES

DU-4 Not only humans are at risk. This is a known wildlife migration path that would endanger the resident Golden Eagles in the area, as well as other visiting birds such as the Bald Eagles. The power lines could cause electrocution or collisions.

DU-5 Thank you for taking the time to address our concerns. We have lived in this area for 27 years and would hate to see our beautiful bucolic countryside evolve into industrial landscape, with increased risks for fire, health and wildlife.

Sincerely,



Margaret and Larry Ward
 1793 Burnt Rock Way
 Templeton, Ca 93465

Response to Comment DU-1

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route due to general concerns regarding the aesthetic impacts that would result from Alternative SE-PLR-2. The comment also expresses concern regarding impacts on heritage oaks and property values. Please refer to pages 4.1-53 through 4.1-54 of Section 4.1, "Aesthetics," in Volume 1 of the FEIR for the analysis of impacts on visual resources from Alternative SE-PLR-2. The commenter is also referred to Master Response 10 for a discussion of heritage oak trees and Master Response 7 regarding property values.

Response to Comment DU-2

The comment alleges that transmission lines under Alternative SE-PLR-2 would increase wildfire risk, noting that the alternative is in a High Fire Hazard Zone. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns related to increased wildfire 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 these concerns, please refer to Master Response 6.

Response to Comment DU-3

This comment expresses concerns related to construction of high voltage transmission line and associated infrastructure near the commenter's residential community along Alternative SE-PLR-2. Specifically, the commenter mentions concerns related to EMF and effects on human health. For the CPUC's response to concerns related to EMF, please refer to Master Response 2.

Response to Comment DU-4

The comment expresses concern about the power lines associated with Alternative SE-PLR-2 and the risk of golden eagles and bald eagles colliding with, or being electrocuted by, the lines. For the CPUC's response to comments and concerns regarding golden and bald eagles, refer to Master Response 9.

Response to Comment DU-5

The comment reiterates general concerns regarding aesthetics, fire, health, and wildlife the comment letter previously raised. Please refer to Responses to Comments DU-1, DU-2, DU-3, and DU-4 for responses to these specific concerns.

Letter DV: Warm Springs Lane Residents (February 19, 2021)**Letter DV**

February 19, 2021

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

Re: Opposition to Estrella Project SE-PLR-2, Templeton - S. River Route Alternative from the Warm Springs Lane residents of Santa Ysabel Ranch

Dear Dr. Engels,

DV-1 | We are the 24 current residents of Warm Springs Lane. If SE-PLR-2 is chosen as the route alternative for the Estrella Project, it will devastate our neighborhood. High-voltage power lines would run next to S. River Rd., inside the white fence of Santa Ysabel Ranch among heritage oak trees. Once past our main entry gate they would be placed along Warm Springs Lane, within feet of our homes.

DV-2 | If S. River Rd. is closed due to a fire, downed power line, pole, or earthquake the SYR residents of 146 lots, visitors and workers would be forced to use a single exit gate. Warm Springs Lane is the furthest from this gate. With 300' of high-voltage wire between poles, the fault line (potential of 7.3 magnitude) that runs along and crosses S. River Rd. could most certainly cause those lines to snap. If the live wires did not cause a fire, they would prohibit us from evacuation if they fell across Warm Springs Ln. or S. River Rd. We already live in a High Fire Hazard Zone next to fault lines. This compounds the situation tremendously.

DV-3 | The visual impact of these 80' high, 4' wide steel poles just feet from our homes cannot be overstated. Most of us have front doors that would be facing the poles. We would see them from our windows, back yards, front yards, and pass them whenever we leave our homes. The loss of property values would be staggering. How much do you need to discount a home just feet away from a towering steel pole and high-voltage power lines? The country atmosphere of Santa Ysabel Ranch would be gone.

DV-4 | SE-PLR-2 is the last-ranked alternative for many reasons. Please remove it as an option from the Final EIR.

Regards,

The 24 current residents of Warm Springs Lane (signature page follows)

.9

Signatures from all current residents of Warm Springs Lane, Santa Ysabel Ranch

Kelly Pope and David Bulfer
2055 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465



Erika and Pete Palm
2125 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465



Shally and Carlos Valdez
2195 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465



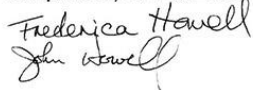
Elisabeth and Mark Sarrow
2325 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465



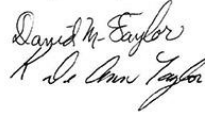
Doug Napp and Andrew Catanio
2255 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465



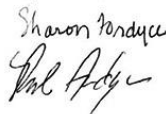
Frederica and John Howell
2395 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465



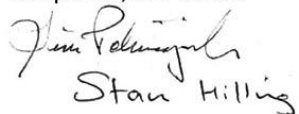
DeAnn and David Taylor
2525 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465



Sharon and Robin Fordyce
2455 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465



Lisa Pohmajevich and Stan Hilling
2785 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465



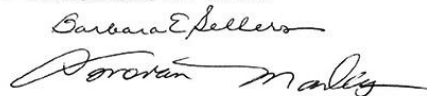
Darcel Phillips and Ted Allrich
2855 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465



Anne Hilbert and Doug Kilgour
2855 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465



Barbara Sellers and Donovan Marley
2985 Warm Springs Lane
Templeton, CA 93465



Response to Comment DV-1

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. All of the commenters provided individual or household comment letters in addition to this letter. This comment describes the commenter’s understanding of the route for Alternative SE-PLR-2 but does not raise any issues regarding EIR adequacy and no response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC’s decisionmakers.

Response to Comment DV-2

The comment 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 and emergency vehicle access, please refer to Master Response 6.

The comment also mentions the proximity of the Alternative SE-PLR-2 alignment to earthquake fault lines and alleges that the transmission lines could spark a wildfire. For the CPUC’s response to these concerns, please refer to Master Responses 1 and 4.

Response to Comment DV-3

The comment expresses general concern regarding the aesthetic impacts that would result from Alternative SE-PLR-2. For the aesthetics analysis of the new poles under Alternative SE-PLR-2, please refer to Section 4.1, “Aesthetics,” pages 4.1-53 to 4.1-54, in Volume 1 of the FEIR. Also, note that CEQA is primarily concerned with a project’s effects on public views and not private residential views. (See *Mira Mar Mobile Community v. City of Oceanside* (2004) 119 Cal. App. 4th 477, 492 [“Under CEQA, the question is whether a project will affect the environment of persons in general, not whether a project will affect particular persons.”]; *Banker’s Hill, Hillcrest, Park West Community Preservation Group v. City of San Diego* (2006) 139 Cal.App.4th 249, 279, [“[O]bstruction of a few private views in a Project’s immediate vicinity is not generally regarded as a significant environmental impact.”]) The impact analysis under significance criterion C¹ for Alternative SE-PLR-2 evaluates the alternative’s degradation of public views on the area and whether Alternative SE-PLR-2 would conflict with zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality.

The comment also expresses concern regarding potential impacts to property values from implementation of Alternative SE-PLR-2. For CPUC’s response to these concerns, please refer to Master Response 7.

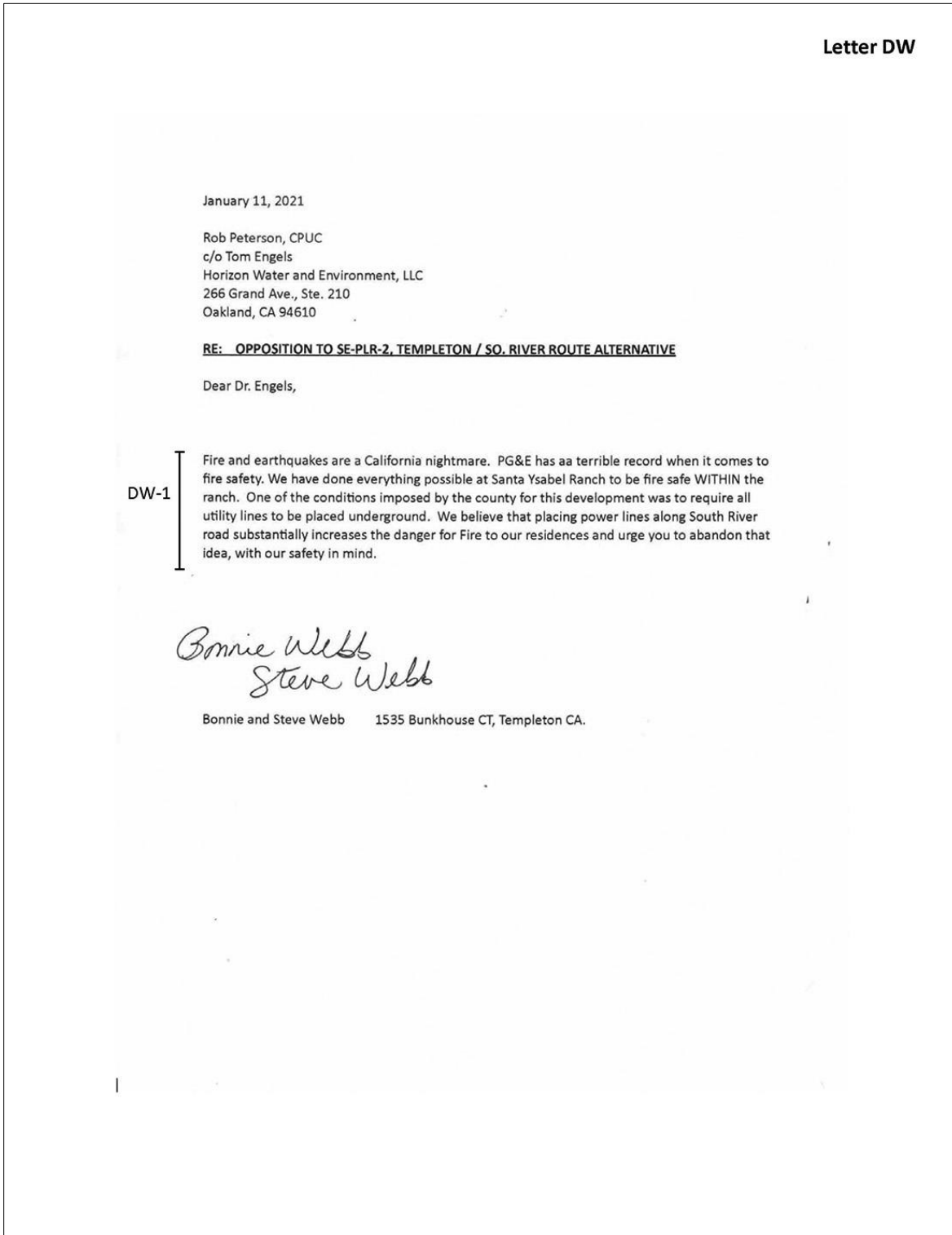
Response to Comment DV-4

This comment recommends removal of the Alternative SE-PLR-2 from the FEIR. This would not comply with CEQA, which requires EIRs to describe a reasonable range of alternatives to a

¹ Significance criterion C in the FEIR’s aesthetics analysis reads: “In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings (public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?”

proposed project that could feasibly attain most of the basic project objectives, and would avoid or substantially lessen any of the proposed project's significant effects. (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126.6(a).) This comment does not raise any issues regarding EIR adequacy and no response is required. Nevertheless, this comment is noted and will be shared with the CPUC's decisionmakers.

Letter DW: Bonnie and Steve Webb (January 11, 2021)



Response to Comment DW-1

The commenter expresses opposition to Alternative SE-PLR-2: Templeton-Paso South River Road Route. Additionally, the commenter's general concern related to fire and earthquakes in California is noted. Please review Section 4.9, "Hazards and Hazardous Materials" and Section 4.20, "Wildfire" of this FEIR (refer to Volume 1) for a detailed analysis of the Proposed Project's and alternatives' impacts related to hazards and wildfire, respectively. Please also refer to Master Response 4.

Letter DX: Jeff Wu (February 20, 2021)

Letter DX

From: [Jeff Wu](#)
To: estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com
Subject: The Estrella Substation Project
Date: Saturday, February 20, 2021 10:43:03 PM

Hi There,

DX-1 [As the owner and CEO of CaliPaso Winery LLC, locate at 4230 Buena Vista Drive, I strongly oppose The Estrella Substation Project. This project will create irreversible changes to our property. Please take my concern into consideration.

Best,

Jeff
Owner/CEO
CaliPaso Winery LLC

Response to Comment DX-1

This comment alleges the Proposed Project would “create irreversible changes to our property.” Please refer to Master Response 7 for a discussion of concerns related to decreased property values in the surrounding area. The commenter’s opposition to the Proposed Project is noted and will be shared with the CPUC’s decisionmakers.