

Comment Set C.147: Ronald Michel

Ronald B. Michel
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Leona Valley, Ca, 93551

9/25/06

To: John Boccio/ Marian Kadota
CPUPC/USDA Forest Service
c/o Aspen Financial Group
30423 Canwood St, Ste 215
Agoura Hills, Ca, 91301

RECEIVED
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BY:.....

Re: Opposition to the proposed alternate route 5, Antelope Pardee 500 KV transmission project.

Please read into the record.

Dear Mr. Boccio and Ms. Kadota

In regards to the proposed plan to place new high tension transmission lines (Proposed plan-5) through Leona Valley, I am very much against this plan.

I am honorably retired from the Los Angeles Police Department and my wife is currently a Deputy Sheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and we have been residents of Leona Valley for over 13 years. We live on Bouquet Cyn Rd very close to the area of Leona Valley where the transmission lines will cross Bouquet Cyn. The thought of these lines, these extremely high voltage lines near our home has caused no little stress in our lives. We are concerned and angered by the tactic employed by Aspen Environmental in the planning of the routes of these huge towers and the submittal of this plan. We have attended the meetings regarding the proposed paths of these towers submitted by Aspen Environmental and have been witness to the misleading and untruthful nature of their proposals. We witnessed the statements regarding the photos taken of the proposed route-5 at one of these meetings in Palmdale and observed, as did many of the other people at the meeting that the photos were taken at angles that removed many of the homes that were in fact within the proposed route through the town. When we inquired about having the photos re-shot so that the ultimate decision making body or person to whom the photos would be submitted would have the best evidence available and we were told that Aspen Environmental would not even consider the request. We were witness to the statements from the presenters where they admitted that the photos were not photo-shopped but were taken at such angles to remove the homes from the pictures. We believe that this was done so that, in future presentations to the people who will ultimately decide this issue, that the Aspen Environmental could underreport the number of homes and families that would be affected by the proposed plan. I have worked as a fraud investigator for 13 years, investigating a number of fraudulent schemes. For Aspen Environmental to do this, to submit these unfair photos taken in the furtherance of their plan to those who will rely on these photos to make their decision is a

C.147-1

fraudulent representation of the facts of this case. These plans affect people's lives, and for them to submit these subjective photos is a travesty. The taking of a persons home and property is a very serious issue that faces many of the citizens of this country with new federal laws that regulate this type of act.

My wife and I have been dedicated public servants for many years. We know from past experience that poorly planned or faulty operations put into operation by police and community officers have resulted in the destruction of property and injury to our citizens. In some cases, these plans have landed many of our dedicated police officers in prison, and have resulted in millions of dollars in damages being awarded to the injured parties. How are these Aspen Environmental plans different. These plans have not been submitted in good faith, as evidenced by the photos and the misleading presentations made to the homeowners at these meetings. In addition, it has been brought to the attention of the planners that very little time was provided to the citizens of Leona Valley to prepare defenses for this plan, or to obtain the services of an attorney to assist us in the defense of a report that is apparently over 1500 pages in length. This is unfair and I believe, against the codes that mandate a proper notification. Many of us along your proposed plan-5 pathway have been in our homes for over 30 years, and for you to submit this plan without providing us with a reasonable amount of time to respond to is not fair. We would demand an extension of time to prepare our defense, which is out right.

C.147-2

In any plan of this nature, one that promises to evict us from our homes or possibly affect our health and welfare based upon proven EMF effects on people living in the immediate area, there should be alternatives that diminish those potential hazards. You provided those alternate plans stating that the alternate plans were the original and most likely plans to be submitted and approved. Now we find out that not only did Aspen Environmental and Edison misrepresent that part of their presentation, but that there is actually a second tower pathway that will mirror the first and so we are looking at two pathways of towers and not one. This sounds very much like a serious misrepresentation to me. In addition, there was no mention of twin pathways thru the national forest areas which were presented as plans 1 thru 4. I believe that this was because there was never any intention for ever placing the towers in the national forest and that those proposed plans 1 thru 4 were only placebos to put the town of Leona Valley off without attorney representation until you could push Plan-5 through. Unfair!

C.147-3

C.147-4

We are citizens of this country and should be protected from poorly planned and misleading programs masked to make people believe that it is for the public good. At last I looked, we were protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. We are promised the protection of the government of the United States to be safe in our homes. People need to be the first concern when planning improvements to our communities, because if they are not, what good are the improvements when we destroy a few lives to improve others. We have the right to be safe in our homes. The taking of a persons home not only hurts that person and deflates a community, but the ripple effects of this destructive type of intrusion relates to lower property values. Are you going to pay these people for all of the work that they have done in the maintenance of their homes for as many years as they have been there. How can you put a price on the hard work that went into the maintenance of multiple acres of land. Leona Valley is a rural, almost farm

like community. You are not just taking a home, you are taking a lifestyle. When fires take our homes, it is a terrible tragedy. If you take them, it is progress?

We live on the San Andreas Fault. Leona Valley is also in a liquefaction area and the damage done should one of these towers topple or drop a high voltage line on the ground in the areas surrounding our home could be disastrous.

C.147-5

Many of the homes in the area rely on wells for their water. Many of us could be adversely affected by the erosion caused by drilling, building of unpaved roads for the installation of these towers which could lead to soil and ground contamination. There are many hazardous materials that are used in the transmission of power through these lines and in the maintenance of these pathways.

C.147-6

The EMF waves that are emitted from these towers have been linked to incidents of Leukemia in children, aborted pregnancies and cancer.

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The lines are very tall and pose an increased threat to any air actions taken in the defense of our homes during wildfires. The fire departments who respond to our area to fight the fires that threaten us may come from anywhere. Cooperative neighboring counties send their firefighters to us in times of need and without the knowledge of the height and breath of these towers, the danger is very real to them as well. The reduced ability to fight these fires could translate into lost homes and possible loss of life.

C.147-8

There is the argument that the wildlife in the ANF would be affected. The same wildlife that lives within the boundaries of the ANF also is found on our properties. We also have horses and livestock on our properties along with those

C.147-9

Eminent Domain laws were passed to increase the value proposition of an area or community. How is our community going to be better with the plan that you proposed. How are we to gain by your plan. When a house is replaced by a Walmart or shopping mall, the community at least is given a new job market and the overall financial income of that community is increased. When you take homes for power lines and towers, power that does not offer us one watt of power that we don't already have, what have we gained.

I am sure that if our homes become a target of this plan that the true value of the homes and properties that we have worked so hard to create would not be realized in their purchase by Edison. To purchase like properties, we would be thrown into higher tax bases and could not possibly find like and kind homes. The grading for footing holds and spur roads would likely have lasting effects upon those who remain.

C.147-10

The towers would turn our once beautiful, panoramic views into eyesores. There is no way to place these towers through our community without ruining a truly beautiful landscape.

C.147-11

The building of this line would impact our community for years. The number of construction personnel and amount of equipment required for this job would be numbing. The disruption to the community would be a true catastrophe. We live in a rural community where we spend a great deal of time in the outdoors. Our community fosters 4H, Future Farmers of America, small town community schools and churches. The building of these towers alone would do untold damage to our lifestyle and would under mind the very reasons for which we came here.

Our community would be home to 33 of these monster towers. This would be a huge undertaking if there were no homes in the way. The amount of large truck and heavy aircraft traffic needed to bring this amount of hardware into our town would be

indescribable. How could we allow our children out even during the construction of these towers. The noise and disruption to the community would be awful.

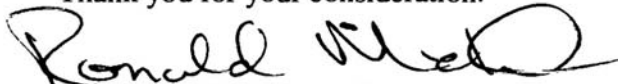
Aspen Environmental states that the loss of property value in our community would be less that significant. How can they say this. Our property values are based in part on our unobstructed views and horse and walking trails. We all argue that the construction of these towers would reduce our property values a great deal. We have worked too hard and rely on our investments for our future. These towers would cause no little injury to our future based upon reduced investment accounts.

C.147-12

I am against this proposed plan-5. There are alternate routes available. Plan 1-4 go through areas of the national forest where no one lives. I affects very little area and wildlife. The route would be shorter and a great deal less expensive to complete. No homes would be taken and the there would be no long term health issues for the people who would not have thousands of watts and unknown EMF exposure over the heads of the homeowners and families. You have to consider that children are at great risk of the effects of these towers. If there is a chance of hurting one child, only one is the plan worth the risk. Don't drown out the cries of thousand of tax payer, homeowners and families with the voices of only a few environmentalists worried about a very small path thru our national forest. My wife and I care very much for the environment and our national forest, but not at the expense of our community and the health of our people.

C.147-13

Thank you for your consideration.



cc: The Honorable Julie Halligan
Supervisor Jody Noiron
The Honorable Michael Antonovich
The Honorable Howard (Buck) McKeon
The Honorable George Runner
The Honorable Sharon Runner
The Honorable Audra Strickland
The Honorable Dr Keith Richman
The Honorable Mayor Laurene Weste
Mr. Terry Kenney

Response to Comment Set C.147: Ronald Michel

- C.147-1 As discussed in Section C.9.10.2, the majority of land uses that would be restricted as a result of Alternative 5 would be the erection of new structures within the alternative ROW. However, given that SCE has not conducted construction or final alignment and design studies for Alternative 5, the EIR/EIS has assumed that the removal of one or more homes may occur. Alternative 5 would not result in the displacement of a significant portion of the families in the Leona Valley or Agua Dulce communities.
- C.147-2 Please see General Response GR-5 regarding the Project's noticing procedures and review period. On September 13, the CPUC and the Forest Service formally extended the public review period for the Draft EIR/EIS to October 3, 2006.
- C.147-3 Please see General Response GR-3 regarding potential EMF impacts.
- C.147-4 As discussed in Section B.4.5.2, Alternative 5 would utilize the same type of single-circuit 500-kV transmission towers as the proposed Project, as described in Section B.2.1.
- C.147-5 As discussed in Section C.5.10.2, damage related to earthquake induced phenomena would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.
- C.147-6 As discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.8.10, the construction and operation of Alternative 5 would result in less-than-significant impacts to water quality and available groundwater.
- C.147-7 Please see General Response GR-3 regarding potential EMF impacts.
- C.147-8 We recognize that Alternative 5 would constrain the ability to aggressively fight a wildland fire in the vicinity of the route, and would create additional fire risks to inhabited areas such as Leona Valley and Agua Dulce (see discussion in Section D.5). Your concerns will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.
- C.147-9 As discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.3.10.2, the construction and operation of Alternative 5 would result in less-than-significant impacts with mitigation incorporated to both wildlife habitat and species along the Alternative 5 route.
- C.147-10 Your comments will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC. Please also see General Response GR-1 regarding potential effects on property values.
- C.147-11 As discussed in Draft EIR/EIS Section C.15.10.2, the change to existing views as a result of infrastructure construction are considered a significant and unavoidable impact of Alternative.5. Your concerns will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC.
- C.147-12 Your comments will be shared with the decision-makers who are reviewing the Project and alternatives at the USDA Forest Service and the CPUC. Please also see General Response GR-1 regarding potential effects on property values.
- C.147-13 Thank you for submitting your opinion on Alternative 5. Please note that private properties and homes exist along the proposed Project and Alternatives 1 through 4, as identified in Section C.9,

Land Use and Public Recreation, that would be impacted if chosen by the CPUC and USDA Forest Service.