



City of Banning Office of the Mayor

RECEIVED AUG 18 2008

August 4, 2008

Juralynne B. Mosley
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
E-mail: elcasco@aspene.com

RE: Southern California Edison's El Casco Substation Project

Dear Ms. Mosley

The City of Banning City Council has received the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report as well as, been notified of, and attended the Southern California Edison (SCE) Public Meetings regarding the El Casco Substation Project. We appreciate the information SCE has provided and look forward to working cooperatively toward the end goal of providing reliable power to this rapidly growing area. This letter is to share our comments and concerns regarding, specifically, the one mile portion that traverses the Sun Lakes Country Club community within the City of Banning.


Approximately seven miles of the 115kV transmission line is located in an SCE right-of-way within the city limits of Banning. One mile of the existing 115kV line traverses a rather large 55+ community known as Sun Lakes Country Club. The Sun Lakes Development has 3300 homes with 2 golf courses and full amenities for all residents. The 115kV transmission line right-of-way is largely located within the golf course boundaries and is very close to many homes that border the golf course. All utilities, with the exception of the SCE 115kV transmission line are currently located under ground.

The Draft EIR released in December 2007 supports the undergrounding of this one mile section as the preferred alternative. However, the Recirculated Draft EIR released in July 2008, which was prepared by the CPUC rather than Aspen Environmental Group, has redirected the undergrounding to no longer be the preferred alternative. The Recirculated Draft has changed important items such as Land Use, Noise, and Visual Impacts to no longer be the preferred alternatives if the lines were undergrounded. We are curious as to how this change came to be? And why the CPUC prepared this document rather than the authors of the original Draft EIR, Aspen Environmental Group?

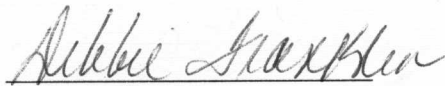
We understand that cost, and time of construction across the golf course are obstacles. Yes, it will take longer to construct the underground facilities across the golf course and yes, it will be more expensive, these are not good enough reasons and should not outweigh the long term benefits to a community of approximately 6000 citizens. The community realizes many other benefits by these lines being undergrounded such as: long term aesthetics, reduced exposure to EMF, elimination of very loud noise on frequently foggy mornings, improved safety by eliminating the overhead poles located on the golf course, and significantly reducing the potential for fire. We agree with the residents of Sun Lakes and believe strongly that the long term benefits of undergrounding this section of line far outweigh the inconvenience of the time to traverse the one mile across Sun Lakes.

The City of Banning respectfully requests that the CPUC do two things: 1) insure the CEQA process is adequately and properly followed through to the completion of all requirements and; 2) that the CPUC reconsider and change the Final EIR to reflect undergrounding the one mile of 115kV transmission line through the Sun Lakes Country Club Community in the City of Banning as the preferred alternative.

Respectfully,



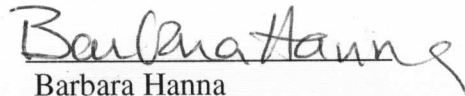
Brenda Salas
Mayor



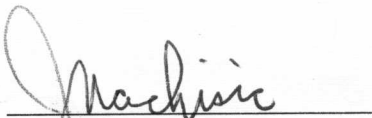
Debbie Franklin
Mayor Pro Tem



Bob Botts
Councilmember



Barbara Hanna
Councilmember



John Machisic
Councilmember