

Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

From: Drew Shell [shell@corp.webtv.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2003 1:53 PM
To: jeffmartin@AspenEG.com
Subject: Comments Regarding Jefferson-Martin 230kV Transmission Line Project

Dear People,

I have read the EIR for the proposed Jefferson-Martin 230kV Transmission Line Project from San Carlos to San Bruno, and am writing to provide my comments on the proposal.

As a San Carlos resident, I am deeply concerned about the environmental, aesthetic, safety, and health impacts of the overhead portion of the project, known as Segment 1A, both from the construction itself, and from the long term effects of larger towers and higher voltages. In particular, a portion of the existing transmission line easement runs through Edgewood Park and Natural Preserve, where impacts from construction and long term maintenance would be a significant concern due to the sensitive and protected nature of the wildlife habitat there.

I am also concerned about the environmental justice issues associated with the plan to increase the impact of overhead lines along Segment 1A, while other segments further North will be placed underground. As the EIR indicates, this project is intended to benefit those at the North end of the peninsula, but offers no benefits or advantages to land or communities along the Segment 1A portion of the project. Yet it is exactly that portion that will be subject to a large share of the environmental, aesthetic, safety, and health impacts inherent in the construction and maintenance of larger overhead transmission lines.

I therefore most strenuously request that the project use Alternative 1B rather than Segment 1A. Alternative 1B would move all current and future transmission lines from the present overhead alignment to an underground alignment along Canada Rd. This would avoid most of the negative impacts mentioned above, and would protect and preserve sensitive habitat at Edgewood Park and elsewhere along the Segment 1A alignment. In addition, this would allow for the eventual removal of the existing towers (preferably by helicopter in sensitive areas), thus improving the safety, environmental quality, and aesthetic character of the I-280 corridor.

This transmission line project is an historic opportunity to "do things right" by reducing the footprint of development along the scenic I-280 corridor. Time and again, Bay Area residents have shown their dedication to maintaining the scenic and environmental character of open space and low density development on the peninsula. The larger towers of Segment 1A would fly in the face of that tradition, and are not at all in keeping with the current trend towards development limits and the preservation and rehabilitation of open space in our area. Alternative 1B, on the other hand, would achieve the project goals, and would also represent a major improvement to the peninsula in a variety of different ways. In my opinion it is quite simply "the right thing to do".

Sincerely,

Drew Shell
153 Palm Ave
San Carlos, CA 94070

Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

From: Frank.Mak@kp.org
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2003 12:06 PM
To: jeffmartin@aspeneq.com
Subject: Jefferson Martin PG&E Power Transmission Project

California Public Utilities Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns over PG&E's plans to replace existing 60kV power lines with 230kV power lines along Highway 280.

The proposed 230kV power lines present greater Electric and Magnetic Fields dangers for the existing residential neighborhood in Hillsborough. The new towers will be within 600 feet of West School and within 400 feet to many homes in my community. Electric and Magnetic, according to a June 2002 report issued by the California Department of Health Services, can increase the risk of miscarriages, childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, and ALS. There is a potential long term health and safety risk with the new power lines.

The proposed project will have towers taller and wider than the existing towers. These towers will be unattractive near residential areas. In addition, I am concerned that the new high voltage transmission will diminish property valuations for the community. I am also concerned about the future disruption and noise caused by the construction of the new towers and power lines.

I suggest that the power lines be built underground or at the very minimum, moved to the west side of Interstate 280, away from the existing homes and schools.

This concern is shared by many of my neighbors, the Town of Hillsborough, and the 280 Corridor Concerned Citizens Group. I respectfully ask that you deny or modify PG&E's plan for the Jefferson Martin project.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Frank Mak
35 Rowan Tree Lane
Hillsborough, CA. 94010-6333

Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

From: Greg Stein [gstein@FinancialEngines.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2003 5:47 PM
To: 'jeffmartin@aspenEG.com'
Subject: my concerns regarding the Jefferson-Martin 230kv Transmission Project

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Gregory Stein and I live with my wife Helen Song at 1796 Lexington Ave. in San Mateo. We recently purchased our house in October. Like many people who live on Lexington Avenue, we paid a substantial purchase price for a property with a breathtaking view of the coastal mountains alongside Highway 280.

Only recently (by members of the community, NOT by PG&E or the California PUC) were we notified of the Jefferson-Martin 230kv Transmission Project. We have some serious concerns regarding the project.

This project will have a significant detrimental effect to the value of our real estate and to that of the neighborhood, in addition to a reduction in our quality of life. The project as proposed would compromise our view and the desirability of our property, while improving the availability of electricity to residents of San Francisco. In effect, this project amounts to a transfer of wealth and living standard from the residents of the San Mateo Highlands and other communities to the residents of San Francisco.

I am also very concerned regarding the noise effects of a higher-capacity transmission line that sits closer to the back of my property. The absence of annoying buzzing sounds and the din of heavy construction is a reasonable thing to expect of a residential community, and it seems both unreasonable and unfair for my quality of life to be adversely affected in this fashion, with no commensurate compensation. I value my outdoor quiet very highly.

I would suggest a number of alternatives to the Jefferson-Martin 230kv Transmission Project as is currently proposed:

1. No project. It is not clear to me that the project is needed at this time.
2. Local electricity generation within the immediate San Francisco area. It is reasonable and fair that the people who profit from greater electricity availability assume the quality-of-living costs that arise from it. It is not reasonable nor fair that my family assume such costs.
3. Alternative transmission that does not result in such unsightly and potentially noise-polluting effects. I would support underground lines or lines that do not compromise my quality of life. The costs to our quality of life are not, I am sure, factored into the cost assessments of this project; however, our quality of life is very important to us. Alternative transmission that does not result in such unsightly and noise-producing affects may be more expensive in terms of dollars; however, it would more accurately incorporate the TRUE costs of resolving this issue.

To conclude, I feel that the costs to the quality of life of residents like me and the detrimental effects to our real estate values have not been taken into consideration by the planners of this project. The proposal, as it stands, represents an unwarranted, unreasonable, and unfair transfer of wealth and quality of life from local residents like me to San Francisco electricity users. It is only reasonable and fair for San Francisco electricity users to bear the real estate and quality-of-life costs of their own electricity availability.

Regards,
Gregory Stein

Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

From: Margaret Kujiraoka [mkujiraoka@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2003 6:22 PM
To: jeffmartin@aspenEG.com
Subject: Proposed PG&E Jefferson-Martin Project

I am writing to express my concern over PG&E's proposal to increase transmission lines behind Lexington Avenue homes 5 times, from 60kV to 230kV. This will generate significantly more EMF (electromagnetic fields), at a level that greatly increases the potential for health concerns (brain cancer, childhood leukemia, birth defects, etc.)

The lines are one block from Highlands School, and within hundreds of feet from homes on Lexington Avenue. California guidelines do not allow new schools to be built within 200 feet of high transmission lines, yet there are over 400 students at Highlands Elementary School and many homes on Lexington Avenue that will be directly impacted.

Other countries who have studied the effects of EMFs have concluded that there is a connection between EMF exposure and cancer. They have been rather conservative in setting regulations distancing residences and schools from high transmission lines and requiring utility companies to mitigate the effects of the lines (such as properly burying them).

As the mother of four children (two of whom currently attend Highlands School) and as a resident of this neighborhood, I am greatly concerned about the potential health risks this project poses to the school as well as the Highlands community, the aesthetics (massive towers 30 feet taller that impact the watershed view and ecosystem), as well as the impact on property values.

Please carefully consider the health issues and especially our children as you make your decisions about this project.

Thank you,

Margaret Kujiraoka
1944 Ticonderoga Drive
San Mateo, CA 94402
650-341-4212 (home)

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Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

From: MelSherrie@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2003 9:00 AM
To: jeffmartin@aspeng.com
Subject: 280 Coridor project

Dear Ms. Blanchard,

We are concerned about the Jeffmartin Project. From our research we believe that the proximity of these wires to home and Highlands school presents a danger for our children. We would be happy to support the wires being moved west of Crystal Springs or placed underground.

We appreciate your looking at other options to this Project,

Mel and Sherie Friedman
25 Burgoyne Court
San Mateo, CA 94402
345-0428

Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

From: Mina Eimon [minakaeli@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2003 12:25 AM
To: Jeffmartin@aspeneq.com
Subject: Opposition to powerline proposal

My husband and I are strongly opposed to the proposal to replace the existing power lines. There is NO reason to put residents, especially children, at risk of exposure to EMF. My small children attend school only 600 feet away from the towers. Many of their friends live even closer. We are a civilized nation. We MUST put our children first at all costs. We cannot take risks. We owe it to them.

The Hillsborough residents do not benefit at all from the new towers. Why must we suffer the consequences of a project that serves only San Francisco and upper San Mateo County? PG&E needs to explore other options, such as installing an underground route, or building a powerplant in San Francisco. Unless PG&E has thoroughly evaluated all other options for a better outcome (and they need to stick with the one that does not put children at risk), they cannot say that their current powerline proposal is the optimal solution.

Sincerely,

Mina Eimon (mother, Hillsborough Resident)

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Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

From: Nancy Russell [nancykrussell@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2003 5:53 PM
To: jeffmartin@aspenerg.com
Subject: P G & E proposal

Importance: High

2/27/03

With regard to the Jefferson-Martin Transmission line, I should like to add our objections because it would definitely be a detriment to our environment and preferences as an highly attractive and desirable living area.

As a long time 30 year resident, I find it very unnecessary to alter the values of living in the Highlands with increased health and safety hazards as well as compounding the existing visual detriments. I am sure from my own contacts that this is the feeling of the community which continues to find it necessary to protest outside efforts both public and private to invade the areas and space surrounding our houses. I trust that the CPUC and EIR people will carefully consider and respond to these important objections.

Sincerely, D. W. Russell, 2220 Allegheny Wy. San Mateo, CA. 94402