

PEOPLE FOR A



OLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

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February 24, 2003

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Ms. Billie Blanchard
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94104-2906

via fax: 650-240-1720
hard copy to follow

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

The lands of the Peninsula Watershed in San Mateo County are extraordinarily beautiful and important. They are part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, a national park. These lands are also within the million-acre Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve, a United Nations designation for land and water areas of extraordinary natural significance; two of the most famous examples are the Galapagos Islands and the Serengeti Plain.

We have a single opportunity to right a wrong on these watershed lands. The PG&E Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission line should be undergrounded for its entire length, rather than replacing 100 towers with even higher towers than exist today. The existing towers should be removed. This is a solution worthy of the aesthetics of the site. It is also important for the security of the bird populations that cross the watershed lands. Tower replacement and future ongoing maintenance can only create further disturbance for the variety of butterfly and other insect populations that inhabit the area. They may not be dramatically obvious, but they are biologically important.

Undergrounding the lines is additionally a solution that makes better sense in these politically-disturbed times. The Peninsula's electrical supply should be put underground to decrease the possibility of sabotage.

For these reasons, People For a Golden Gate National Recreation Area supports Alternative 1B for the PG&E Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Line project. We also ask that a combined EIR/EIS be written because of the federal government's easements on this land.

Sincerely,

Amy Meyer, Co-Chairman