

## Comment Set 41

August 27, 2003

Billie Blanchard  
California Public Utilities Commission  
C/O Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

**Re: Proposed Jefferson-Martin 230kv Transmission Line Project**

I have been against the above project from the beginning for all of the reasons discussed at the August 12, 2003 Public participation hearing on the Draft EIR issues.

41-1

Participants and people in attendance of that meeting were encouraged to submit comments on the proposed alternatives. Unfortunately, these alternatives were not discussed in detail at the meeting. It was not until the very end, after a considerable amount of people had left, that an important aspect of one of the alternative routes was brought up. If I understood it correctly, the alternative route placing the towers on the west side of 280 would not include under-grounding the existing 60kv tower lines.

41-2

**After hearing the information presented about the health dangers associated with the 230kv lines and the condition of the current 60kv towers, I am even more convinced that under-grounding the existing towers as well as the proposed lines is the only option available.**

**It was not clear to me which alternative route included the under-grounding of the proposed 230kv lines and the existing 60kv lines. In order to achieve this goal, I would also approve of the partial under-grounding of the proposed and existing lines in residential areas.**

Sincerely,



Michael Nagle  
1756 Lexington Ave.  
San Mateo, CA 94402

## Responses to Comment Set 41 – Michael Nagle and Jean Connolly

- 41-1 The commenters' opposition to the Proposed Project is noted.
- 41-2 Please refer to Appendix 1, Section 2.3.2.1 for a discussion of the CEQA legal issues regarding line collocation. Unless the Proposed Project is undergrounded in the existing ROW then the existing 60 kV lines may not be undergrounded as well. Also, please see the discussion in Appendix 1, Section 4.2.2, for PG&E's Route Option 1B with Undergrounding the 60 kV Line. There are portions of the Partial Underground Alternative that would include moving the existing 60 kV lines overhead in an alignment west of I-280 with the new 230 kV lines, such as in the vicinity of Edgewood Park and Burlingame, as well as undergrounding the 60 kV and 230 kV lines in the existing corridor from Ralston to Carolands Substations. An all-underground line in the existing ROW was eliminated from consideration due to significant biological impacts, the topographic setting that affected technical feasibility, and regulatory feasibility concerns. Given this, the commenters' support for the Partial Underground Alternative is noted.

For a discussion regarding public health and safety and EMF, please see General Response GR-1.

## Comment Set 42

RICHARD COLE  
1431 TARRYTOWN STREET  
SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA 94402-3819  
650-345-0567

August 27, 2003

Ms. Billie C. Blanchard, CPUC  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935  
San Francisco, California 94102

Ref.: Comments, Jefferson/Martin DEIR, Revised and Expanded

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

My response to the DEIR is based entirely on the Executive Summary. My comments have to do with the No-Project Alternative (and with Project Justification). I believe that your treatment of this and related project alternatives is inadequate, for the following main reasons:

1. Your deferring to the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF); that is, to its political reasons for not meeting its so-called demands by generating electrical power close to the users, and
2. Your overstatement of the need for the project.

I will deal with the *first* area first. In my [EIR scope] letter to you, dated February 19, 2003, I requested full treatment of the possibility of supply generation close to the San Francisco users. You have responded to this request in a half-hearted way (p. ES-19), viz.:

“Under the No-Project Alternative, other actions.....would need to compensate.....if the anticipated load growth occurs. PG&E and the ISO [Independent System Operator] would need to evaluate alternative courses of action.. This alternative includes the following components:

“**New generation** - There is significant uncertainty associated with approval and construction of new generation facilities in the CCSF, but given the apparent CCSF support for installation of the Williams turbines (and given the ISO’s indication that operation of these turbines, with other system improvements, would allow closure of HPPP Unit 4), it seems likely that these turbines will be installed.....” .

WHY DID YOU STOP THERE? Apparently the Williams turbines will allow the closure of the Hunters Point power plant, without providing any net additional power. That will presumably be good for Bayview / Hunters Point, but what about the City and the area as a whole? Why is the PUC not advocating for many additional Williams turbine plants in CCSF, given that PG&E’s proposed project will put almost all of its adverse environmental impacts on San Mateo County residents, while satisfying the presumed

42-1

## Comment Set 42, cont.

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power needs of CCSF, predominantly? The economic-growth advocates in CCSF get all the benefits, and pay none of the environmental price.

AND WHY DO YOU LET PG&E OFF THE HOOK, by not telegraphing that you are selecting the No-Project Alternative (in the face of unrealistic demand projections -- see below), so that "PG&E and the ISO [can begin to] evaluate alternative courses of action?" If you select 1A or 1B (the latter, together with moving and undergrounding of the existing 60kV line in the San Mateo Highlands area, is my fallback preference), you foreclose any forward-looking thinking by PG&E.

In a similar vein, you consider "New Generation Alternatives -- San Francisco Williams Turbines" and "Distributed Generation [DG]" both including "Rationale for Elimination," on pp. ES-24 and ES-25.

For the first, your reasons for elimination from further consideration include:

".....There are regulatory feasibility constraints to project(s) approval.....There may be siting constraints associated with placing the Williams turbines in the CCSF." **Who imposes these "constraints"?** Willie Brown and the Board of Supervisors?

For the second, your reasons for elimination from further consideration include:

".....A number of serious barriers, including **technical issues**,.....and **regulatory policies**, make interconnection to the electrical grid for small generators difficult.....**Lengthy local permitting processes** would make it unlikely to construct sufficient quantities of DG within the timeframe required for the Proposed Project." What are these **technical issues**? They don't seem to prevent PG&E from buying excess power from individual homeowners who install solar-energy systems. And what are these **"lengthy local permitting processes"**? Is that Willie and the Supervisors again?

At the evening hearing on August 12, a Ms. Williams, who had some professional association with the ISO, I believe, stated that there was a rumor that a pair of large Williams turbines were now being proposed for the San Francisco International Airport. Is that more than a rumor? Is it a CCSF dodge to avoid the need for siting the four Williams turbines within the CCSF, and to dump yet another adverse environmental impactor on San Mateo County?

Finally, still on this *first* area, your stated reasons (p. ES-59) for recommending against the No-Project Alternative are:

".....the most significant impact of the No-Project Alternative is the likelihood of creating long-term air emissions and noise impacts. In addition, the No-Project Alternative has the potential to result in electric service disruption....."

42-1

## Comment Set 42, cont.

Ms. Billie C. Blanchard  
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With a real No-Project Alternative, you would not have to make these politics-serving statements.

42-1

I now proceed to the *second* area, your/PG&E's overstatement of the need for the project.

42-2

On p. ES-1, you state:

"PG&E's stated objectives for the Proposed Project are fourfold: (1) to meet future electrical demand.....; (2) to comply with industry planning criteria of the.....(ISO) and the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC); (3) to create a more diverse transmission system in the area.....; and (4) to implement the ISO Board of Governor's [sic!] April 2002 Resolution, that approved the Jefferson-Martin project for addition to the ISO-controlled grid....."

Two of these objectives are stated as implementing the orders of other regulatory agencies. (A third refers to "future electrical demand....."; I leave it to others to knock that one down.) I want to concentrate on PG&E's (your) deferring to the orders of other (supervisory) regulatory agencies, with an object lesson.

Sometimes, the regulators are wrong, catastrophically wrong! I refer you to the recent history of production and use of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in the state of California. In or about 1990, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) started to require oil refineries to produce automotive gasoline formulated with oxygen-containing compounds. The idea, fundamentally a good one, was to promote more-complete combustion of gasoline, thus reducing the formation of precursors to smog throughout California. I am not sure whether the CARB injunction specified MTBE as the only such compound -- the feds are now requiring the use of ethanol (grain alcohol) -- but MTBE was certainly emphasized, and MTBE was produced by refineries across California, under CARB's aegis. Everyone will remember the environmental disaster that ensued. MTBE, a carcinogen soluble in water, ended up in groundwater all over the State. Needless to say, MTBE is no longer used as a gasoline additive in California.

42-3

In 1993, I was an independent environmental consultant, part of a team preparing an EIR for the City of Richmond, California. The subject was the Chevron Richmond Refinery's proposed modification of an entire section of the refinery to produce MTBE, under the State's mandate. We were under specific orders to study the environmental impacts of that refinery modification only, not the environmental effects of the whole program, which had presumably had its own environmental-impact review by CARB. I am not saying that I had the prescience to predict the disaster; **unfortunately, I was never given the chance to consider it, because the City of Richmond had deferred to the overriding judgment of the State regulators.** PLEASE STOP AND THINK.

## Comment Set 42, cont.

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REGULATORY MANDATES, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE ISO, CAN BE WRONGHEADED!

42-3

The material above was the substance of my remarks at the **afternoon** hearing in San Mateo on August 12. The following is the substance of my commentary at the **evening** hearing in San Mateo on the same date:

I believe that the CPUC procedure for completing the EIR before the consideration of project justification at an evidentiary hearing puts the cart before the horse. Logically, the person or persons making the CPUC decision about the need for the proposed project does not need an EIR in order to make the decision. You recognize this fact when you mandate that the EIR not include an evaluation of the need for the project; i.e., that the EIR is to provide no information necessary to the project-justification decision. Your EIR is meant to consider adverse environmental impacts of a proposed project (with additional consideration of mitigation and alternatives), **a project that may be taken off the table by the CPUC at a later time, if it is judged to be unnecessary, independent of environmental considerations.**

42-4

To put it another way: If the CPUC decisionmaker(s) decided initially that the project was not justified (a decision that requires no environmental evaluation of the specific project), then there would be no need for the costly and lengthy environmental-review process.

That being so, your combined procedure is, at best, wasteful of public and applicant time and money, and at worst, hurtful to the interested public. Just consider the emotional responses about dangers to the community, especially young children, that you witnessed at the evening hearing on August 12. None of that would have happened if there had been an initial CPUC decision that the project was not necessary. I recognize that the probability of a no-justification decision is low, but it is not zero. And the probability of a no-justification decision would be even higher if the CPUC took a serious look at other ways of achieving the **public's** objectives, independent of PG&E's desires, and independent of project-specific environmental impacts.

Yours very truly,

  
RICHARD COLE

## Responses to Comment Set 42 – Richard Cole

- 42-1 While the Jefferson-Martin project would not create new power generation, it would increase the reliability of the electric transmission system for the San Francisco Peninsula. The CPUC does not have the authority to require construction of generating facilities.

The closure of Hunters Point Power Plant (HPPP) Unit 4 and the Williams' turbines are discussed in Section C.6 in the Draft EIR under the No Project Alternative. The ISO is the authority that would determine when HPPP can be closed in order that closure has no serious effects on the region's electric service. The CPUC is required, independent of HPPP closure and the status or constraints of the Williams' turbines, to consider the effects of the Proposed Project. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Project is briefly discussed in Section A.2, but it is not an issue included under CEQA. The need for this project is not addressed or decided within this EIR (see Response to Comment CC8-1). The CPUC Administrative Law Judge evaluates project need during the General Proceeding with information presented by PG&E, Cal ISO, and other parties.

Please see Responses to Comments 40-4 and 40-5, as well as General Response GR-3, regarding the benefits and burdens of the Proposed Project. It is not accurate to say that the residents of San Mateo County would not benefit from the project.

Regarding implementation of distributed generation, this would likely require State of California action or a federal incentive program, since the technology is available but expensive.

Regarding the possibility of power plants that may be sited in the future at the San Francisco Airport, no applications are currently under review by the California Energy Commission, which is the agency responsible for review of such proposals.

- 42-2 Please see Response to Comment 42-1 (above) for a discussion of need. As stated in the Draft EIR in Section A.2, Purpose and Need for the Proposed Project, the project objectives are those developed by PG&E upon submittal of their Proponent's Environmental Assessment. Under CEQA, the project proponent defines project objectives, and alternatives are evaluated based on project objectives, as well as other CEQA criteria defined in Appendix 1 of the EIR.
- 42-3 As discussed in Responses to Comments 42-1 and 42-2, need for the Proposed Project is not addressed in this EIR. Pursuant to CEQA and the *CEQA Guidelines*, the purpose of this EIR is to objectively evaluate the environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and a reasonable range of alternatives, including the No Project Alternative, and recommend mitigation, which will be used by the CPUC commissioners as a tool in the decision process.
- 42-4 Each CPUC proceeding is evaluated for major issues and the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) then issues a Scoping Memo. In this case, the ALJ determined that the issue of need would be addressed after release of the Final EIR.

## Comment Set 43

1696 Lexington Avenue  
San Mateo, CA 94402-3836

PH/FX: 650.349.9202  
email: [jpmlopez@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jpmlopez@sbcglobal.net)

27 August 2003

Billie Blanchard  
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

**SUBJECT: ASPEN GROUP'S DRAFT EIR FOR JEFFERSON MARTIN 230KV  
TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

Dear Mr Blanchard

I am a resident of the Highlands Community in San Mateo, and my home backs onto the watershed property where the proposed towers will go. I have been out of the country for the past month and therefore unable to attend the public hearings to voice my opinions on this proposed project.

Firstly, I have just completed an extensive remodeling/addition to my home, which started 3 years ago. This has not only enhanced our family life, but has considerably appreciated my property value. Having lived in this neighborhood for 11 years now, I have always enjoyed and benefited from the serenity of the open space and view from the back of my home onto the Crystal Springs Reservoir. I bought the house in great part because of this serene view and because the existing transmission towers were far enough from my home to not be concerned about the effects of EMF to our family and my then young children who were 1-1/2 and 5-1/2 years old. Three years ago, I decided to add a second storey to my home, to take full advantage of this view and because I believed that improving the value of my home was a more sound investment than the stock market. You can imagine, therefore what I think of this proposed project; our view and investment would be greatly compromised and I will not stop fighting to protect these.

Secondly, I am greatly concerned about the health and safety aspect of these proposed high voltage transmission lines. It is scandalous to even be considering over grounding these lines, along this residential corridor, when it is known that there are health and safety concerns to many hundreds of residents. How can PG&E even consider Route 1A with all the known facts? I know that the short-term cost is probably the ONLY consideration, but the shortsightedness and callousness of this view is dumfounding. Not only is completely underground the transmission lines the morally correct alternative, but the more cost effective one in the long run. The potential lawsuits from inevitable health

43-1

43-2



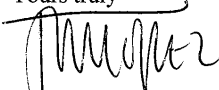
## Comment Set 43, cont.

issues, along with depreciated property values, will be infinitely more expensive than doing the morally correct alternative in the first place.

I look forward to actively pursuing this issue along with the dedicated individuals at the 280CCC.

Thank you.

Yours truly



Jacquie Moore Lopez  
cc: [jeffmartin@aspeng.com](mailto:jeffmartin@aspeng.com)  
[info@280CCC.org](mailto:info@280CCC.org)

43-2

## **Responses to Comment Set 43 – Jacqui Moore Lopez**

- 43-1 Please refer to General Responses GR-1 and GR-2 for discussions of EMF and property values, respectively. EIR Section D.3 presents a detailed analysis of visual impacts of the Proposed Project and alternatives, including identification of significant visual impacts along Lexington Avenue.
- 43-2 Please see General Response GR-1 regarding EMF. The commenter's opposition to the Proposed Project and support for underground lines are noted.

## Comment Set 44

August 27, 2003

From Dennis Tom (MS) 650-742-2490  
To: Billie Blanchard CPUC c/o Aspen Environmental Group

I am one of the original proponents of the partial underground alternative for the southern segment of the proposed Jefferson-Martin transmission line.

While it is not the environmentally superior route as noted in the DEIR, the partial underground plan does have significant environmental benefits of its own (elimination of many of the current towers and protecting Edgewood Park habitat). Also, although the partial underground route would temporarily affect serpentine grassland, appropriate mitigation and replanting of new foliage could actually enhance the environment for native plant and animals. This is not just a once in a lifetime opportunity to remove the towers. It a chance to make a difference for generations to come.

We also recognize that partial undergrounding would substantially reduce EMF levels near residential areas. This would essentially address many of the concerns from residents affected by the new lines. The recent (2003) report by the California EMF program (while not really addressed by the DEIR) needs to be considered by the CPUC in making its decision. (An Evaluation of the Possible Risks from Electric and Magnetic Fields from Power Lines, Internal Wiring, Electrical Occupations and Appliances Drs. Neutra, DelPizzo, Lee - DTS) 1 of 2  
The conclusions by its authors do not make anyone feel more safe about EMFs - including me, a Board certified Pediatrician.

44-1

44-2

2 of 2

## Comment Set 44, cont.

PGE could also benefit too. The partial <sup>Aug 27, 2003</sup> underground plan would be an excellent compromise. As pointed out in the DEIR, partial undergrounding is "feasible and meets all project objectives". It could also be a less expensive alternative than the all underground (1B) route.

Hopefully, partial undergrounding would lead to a win-win situation for all.

PS. Thanks to Aspen Environmental Group and CPUC for its detailed and thorough DEIR

Dennis Tom MD  
379 Barbara Way  
Hillsborough, CA.  
94060  
650-742-2490

44-3

2 of 2

## **Responses to Comment Set 44 – Dennis Tom, M.D.**

- 44-1 The commenter's support for the Partial Underground Alternative is noted, as are its environmental benefits that are mentioned.
- 44-2 Please see General Response GR-1 for a discussion of EMF.
- 44-3 The commenter's support for the Partial Underground Alternative is again noted as a less expensive alternative to PG&E's Route Option 1B and a "win-win" situation for all.

## Comment Set 45

September 27, 2003

Billie Blanchard  
California Public Utilities Commission  
C/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 935  
San Francisco, CA 94104

**RE: Proposed Jefferson-Martin 230kv Transmission Line Project**

After attending the August 12, 2003 Public participation hearing on the Draft EIR issues concerning the above project, I am even more against the proposed project than I was before. Not only am I greatly concerned about the potential health risks that would come with the new aboveground towers; I am greatly concerned about the existing towers. I live in the Highlands and after hearing comments from some of the people in attendance at the meeting about the condition of some of the existing towers, I am very uneasy.

45-1

As I have previously stated, I am against this project for the following reasons:

1. The potential health danger,
2. The adverse effect on my quality of living with the larger towers and wires, the loud buzzing that will accompany them, the possible ruination of my view, and the probable interruption of my electronic/computer service,
3. The adverse effect on my property values. My husband and I and our three children bought our house two years ago knowing where the existing towers were. As others stated, we pay an exorbitant cost for housing here and subsequent high property taxes. If these proposed towers are installed, we will lose all of the above, as well as our biggest and most important life investment. The value of our homes will be slashed and neighborhoods ruined as people are forced to leave to protect their health and quality of living. Houses will be left empty as no one will want to buy them. This will ultimately lead to a loss of much needed property tax dollars for the state.

45-2

45-3

**For all of the above reasons, I am totally against the proposed towers.**

At the very end of the hearing, an important point was brought up about the alternatives and their impact on undergrounding existing towers. It was not clear to me which alternative routes would allow the undergrounding of the new wires as well as the existing towers.

45-4

**I would approve of the proposed increased transmission line only if they are undergrounded near all residential areas and that the existing 60kv towers in residential areas be undergrounded at the same time.** I think this is the perfect opportunity to change all existing towers near residential areas to underground. If what I have heard is true, the existing towers are not being properly maintained and monitored and therefore pose health risks as well.

Sincerely,

*Lauren Nagle*  
1756 Lexington Ave.  
San Mateo, CA 94402

## Responses to Comment Set 45 – Laura Nagle

45-1 The commenter's opposition to The Proposed Project is noted. Please see General Response GR-1 for a discussion of EMF. As for the condition of the line and potential health risks, there is no relationship between line maintenance and the magnetic field. Magnetic field varies only with the amount of current carried by the line.

45-2 EIR Section D.3 presents a detailed analysis of visual impacts of the Proposed Project and alternatives, including identification of significant visual impacts along Lexington Avenue.

Corona noise is addressed in Section D.11.3 (Noise and Vibration) under Impact N-3, Corona Noise from the Operation of the Overhead Transmission Line. PG&E states that it is unaware of any maintenance requests in the project area. Also, please see Response to Comment G-4.

Please refer to Sections D.8.7.2 and D.8.8.2, Public Health and Safety, for a discussion of effects on radio and television interference (Impact PS-1). Mitigation Measure PS-1b addresses the documentation and response to impacts to television interference. Individual sources of adverse radio/television interference can be located and corrected on the power lines.

45-3 Please see General Response GR-2 regarding property values. Please see Response to Comment 41-2 discussing undergrounding both the 60 kV and 230 kV along the Southern Segment of the Proposed Project, as well as Section 2.3.2.1 in Appendix 1 on legal issues related to alternatives.

## Comment Set 46

August 27, 2003

1776 Lexington Avenue  
San Mateo, CA 94402  
TEL 650-345-9433

RE: Jefferson-Martin 230kV Transmission Project

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

Dear Ms. Blanchard:

We wish the following project issues be addressed:

- 1) PG&E has not demonstrated a clear need for the project in light of recent approvals of energy generation facilities in San Francisco, and energy conservation trends. Four new turbine generators are scheduled for construction in San Francisco and the Potrero Hill generation plant is to be expanded.
- 2) PG&E has failed to explain the urgency of the project.
- 3) PG&E has not considered adequate alternatives to the proposed transmission line routes - underground or overhead west of Highway 280.

46-1

46-2

46-3

Respectfully,

*Ralph and Doris Voice*

Ralph and Doris Voice



## Responses to Comment Set 46 – Ralph and Doris Voice

- 46-1 Please see Response to Comment 42-1 regarding project need.
- 46-2 The EIR presents updated data on load forecasts from that presented in PG&E's Proponent's Environmental Assessment (Section A.2). It must be acknowledged, however, that accurately forecasting demand for electricity is very difficult, especially when economic conditions have changed quickly and dramatically in the Bay Area. However, the EIR makes it clear that no determination of project need is made in the CEQA process. Project need would be considered in the CPUC's general proceeding. Please see Responses to Comments 23-1, 40-7, 42-1 for a discussion of need of the Proposed Project. Section A.2, Purpose and Need for the Proposed Project, briefly discusses need and recent area load forecasts (see also Tables A-1 and A-2).
- 46-3 Please see Response to Comment PPH1-10 regarding alternatives west of I-280. Please refer to Appendix 1, Section 2.3.2.1 for a discussion of the CEQA legal issues regarding line collocation. It is noted that a significant portion of the Partial Underground Alternative would be west of I-280 (north of Hayne Road).

## Comment Set 47

### Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

**From:** Lee Cauble [junegecko@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 29, 2003 8:25 AM  
**To:** jeffmartin@aspenerg.com  
**Subject:** serious concerns

(Sorry for delay. I am re-sending. It was sent back to me by hotmail.)

August 27, 2003

Billie Blanchard

California Public Utilities Commission

c/o Aspen Environmental Group

Dear Ms. Blanchard and Commission Members:

I am writing to express my family's serious concerns over PG&E's proposed Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Line Project. I have read the Draft EIR, and I attended the public participation hearing on August 12. Thank you for making information on this proposal so accessible and for holding the public meetings. Thank you for considering the various options which differ from PG&E's original proposal.

47-1

We have lived in the Highlands of San Mateo for 11 years. One of the main reasons we moved here was to enjoy the beautiful surroundings. I love driving home along 280, with the beautiful mountain and watershed views. I feel closer to nature and more serene. New towers would ruin these peaceful views. Taller and wider towers would be an eyesore throughout the area. Highway 280's reputation as a beautiful and calming alternative to busy 101 would be destroyed.

Of even greater concern to us is the extreme health hazard that would be created by new towers. We are concerned about our three children and all the children who live in the Highlands or attend Highlands Elementary School which is so close to where the new towers would be built. As you know, research has identified cancer clusters close to transmission lines. There is mounting evidence that exposure to higher EMF's is associated with an increased risk of miscarriage, childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, and Lour Gehrig's disease. PG&E's failure to acknowledge these dangers is much like the tobacco companies' refusal to admit the health dangers of cigarettes. Only years of substantiated research, public outrage, and numerous court cases prompted their turn-around. How many years and how many deaths will it take to acknowledge the true dangers of EMF's? I don't want

47-2

8/29/03

## Comment Set 47, cont.

my child to be one of the cases that prove the point!

■ 47-2

It sickens me to think PG&E, the company that helped put our state economy into the red, might be given permission for a project that will have such negative health and environmental impacts on communities that will not even benefit from the increased power.

■ 47-3

The DEIR identified the IB all-underground route as the superior transmission route. Clearly, the experts agree with laypeople such as myself. PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE PG&E'S REQUEST TO BUILD ABOVE-GROUND LINES ALONG THE 280 CORRIDOR!

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to the November 18 hearing.

Sincerely,

Lee Cauble Lahoz

1595 Forge Road

San Mateo, CA 94402

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8/29/03

## Responses to Comment Set 47 – Lee Cauble Lahoz

- 47-1 The commenter's concerns about the Proposed Project are acknowledged. The scenic quality of the project area is acknowledged in EIR Sections D.2 (Land Use), D.3 (Visual Resources), and D.9 (Recreation). Appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed under each issue area in Section D of the EIR to reduce potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project.
- 47-2 Please see General Response GR-1 for a discussion of EMF, as well as Section D.8 (Public Health and Safety).
- 47-3 The commenter's support for an all-underground route, such as PG&E Route Option 1B, is noted.

## Comment Set 48

### Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

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**From:** susanne li [ssoqueen@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2003 9:50 AM  
**To:** jeffmartin@aspeneg.com  
**Subject:** Against Jefferson-Martin project on 280 freeway

To whom it may concern:

I am writing regarding the Jefferson-Martin project on 280 freeway. I am a resident of San Mateo Highland and STRONGLY AGAINST this project.

Follows are the reason:

1. A June 2002 study by the California Department of Health Services (DHS) indicates that DHS scientists are inclined to believe that EMFs are associated with an increased risk of childhood leukemia, adult brain cancer, Lou Gehrig disease and miscarriage. Only 5% of residences in the U.S. are exposed to the EMF levels that would occur in many houses from this line. It is estimated that children in these homes are twice as likely to develop childhood leukemia as their non-exposed peers. Source: 2003 Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Inc. There is lots of other studies and data regarding EMFs and the possible link to cancer and other diseases as well.

I strongly oppose to build Larger and taller towers behind my houses. This would expose my family and all San Mateo Highland families to a higher risk of getting this diseases.

2. Property values of my house and San Mateo Highland will be negatively impacted.

3. Why peninsula residents have to bear all of the environmental impacts of the new transmission line even though the primary purpose of the project is to provide power to San Francisco.

Yours Truly,  
Edward & Susanne Li

1747 Monticello Road,  
San Mateo, CA 94402

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48-1

48-2

48-3

## **Responses to Comment Set 48 – Edward and Susanne Li**

- 48-1 The commenters' opposition to the Proposed Project is noted. Please see General Response GR-1 for a response regarding EMF.
- 48-2 Please see General Response GR-2 for a discussion of property values.
- 48-3 Please see Response to Comments 40-4 and 40-5, as well as General Response GR-3, regarding the benefits and burdens of the Proposed Project. It is not accurate to say that the residents of San Mateo County would not benefit from the project.

## Comment Set 49

### Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

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**From:** Ron Schaffner [ronschaffner@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2003 10:57 AM  
**To:** jeffmartin@aspeneq.com  
**Cc:** info@280ccc.org  
**Subject:** concerns re: proposed transmission line project

To: Billie Blanchard, CPUC  
From: Ron Schaffner

Though my concern regarding the Jefferson-Martin Project has been expressed by many people already -- and I have little more to add -- I wish to document my concerns regarding the project.

It is, of course, expected that power requirements continually increase over time. And it is understandable that PG&E needs to meet these requirements for the future.

However, as this project will impact many families, houses, and communities for many years, it's important that the project takes into consideration concerns of the affected population.

Many studies claim relationships between exposure to harmful EMF radiation, and some studies trivialize the effect. As there are various options in routing the transmission lines, why not choose one that removes concerns rather than one that will increase concern for generations to follow?

Aside from health concerns, there are so many other factors concerning my family: effect on property values, noise emitted from lines (as I experience while riding on the bike path near J. Hart Clinton Drive/E. Third Avenue in San Mateo/Foster City), interference with home electronics, and safety concerns in the event of a major earthquake.

I strongly oppose option 1A. My preference is for re-routing the current and proposed lines west of 280 past the Highlands, Hillsborough and Burlingame areas. As the opportunity now exists to "do it right", I trust tha CPUC will make a decision to do so.

Sincerely,

Ronald Schaffner  
1630 Wedgewood Drive  
Hillsborough CA 94010

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49-1

49-2

49-3

## Responses to Comment Set 49 – Ronald Schaffner

- 49-1 The commenter's support for a transmission line route that removes EMF concerns is noted. Please see General Response GR-1 for a discussion of EMF.
- 49-2 Please see General Response GR-2 regarding property values.
- 49-3 Corona noise is addressed in Sections D.11.3 (Noise and Vibration) under Impact N-3, Corona Noise from the Operation of the Overhead Transmission Line. PG&E states that it is unaware of any maintenance requests in the project area. Also, please see Response to Comment G-4.

Please refer to Sections D.8.7.2 and D.8.8.2, Public Health and Safety, for a discussion of effects on radio and television interference (Impact PS-1). Mitigation Measure PS-1b addresses the documentation and response to impacts to television interference. Individual sources of adverse radio/television interference can be located and corrected on the power lines.

Please see Response to Comment 4-4 for a discussion of seismic risk in the event of an earthquake. Section D.6.3 (Geology, Soils, and Paleontology) discusses potential seismic impacts and mitigation measures of the Proposed Project.

Please see Response to Comment PPH1-10 regarding routes west of I-280. Please refer to Section 2.3.2.1 for a discussion of the CEQA legal issues regarding line collocation. It is noted that a significant portion of the Partial Underground Alternative would be west of I-280 (north of Hayne Road). The commenter's opposition to the Proposed Project and preference for underground collocation of the existing and proposed lines west of I-280 past the Highlands, Hillsborough, and Burlingame are noted.



## Comment Set 50

August 27, 2003

Maureen Olson  
2227 Allegheny Way  
San Mateo, California 94402

Billie Blanchard CPUC  
C/O Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, suite 935  
San Francisco, California

Dear Ms. Blanchard,

I am a 28 year resident of the San Mateo Highlands. Our small community has recently been bombarded with major projects targeted for our community.

- The new Juvenile Detention Facility for the county, is planning on building the project close to the homes on Allegheny Way, using 21 acres of green space. The construction will continue from the fall of 2003 through the summer 2006.
- A large development company in the area, (Chamberlain), is attempting to use an unstable hill off of Polhemus to build multi level condominiums and homes on that hill, thus reducing the green space in that area, and potential of jeopardizing the stability of the homes above this site..
- Lastly, PGE has proposed this large project off of 280 to improve the power delivery for San Francisco while diminishing our quality of life and our children's health in this community. There are few residents in our country that will have the high exposure levels of EMF that our community and the surrounding communities will have. The pristine view of the watershed area will be lost for ever. The fact that PGE is considering to use a large earthquake fault area is alarming.

I ask you to consider alternatives for San Francisco's power delivery and consider the cumulative effects of these projects on this community and the surrounding communities. Although, the project benefits San Francisco, it is very detrimental to our community with major health and safety issues. These issues far outweigh the benefits to San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Maureen Olson

50-1

50-2

50-3

## Responses to Comment Set 50 – Maureen Olson

- 50-1 The major subdivision planned off of Polhemus Road in the San Mateo Highlands is included in Table F-1, Cumulative Scenario – Approved and Pending Projects, as Site Number 4 and was incorporated into the cumulative impact analysis of the Proposed Project. The Hillcrest Juvenile Detention Facility project has been added to the text in Table F-1 in this Final EIR as Site Number 7c. Figure F-1a has also been revised to incorporate this addition.

Please see General Response GR-1 for a discussion of EMF. In addition, please see Response to Comments 40-4 and 40-5, as well as General Response GR-3, regarding the benefits and burdens of the Proposed Project. It is not accurate to say that the residents of San Mateo County would not benefit from the project.

- 50-2 The scenic quality of the project area is acknowledged in EIR Sections D.2 (Land Use), D.3 (Visual Resources), and D.9 (Recreation). Appropriate mitigation measures have been proposed under each issue area in Section D of the EIR to reduce potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Project.

Please see Response to Comment 4-4 for a discussion of seismic risk in the event of an earthquake. Section D.6.3 (Geology, Soils, and Paleontology) discusses potential seismic impacts and mitigation measures of the Proposed Project.

- 50-3 Please see Response to Comment 50-1 for a discussion of cumulative projects. All alternatives to the Proposed Project are summarized in Section C and are described in detail in Appendix 1 of the Draft EIR. Please refer to General Responses GR-1 and GR-3 for a discussion of EMF and about the benefits and burdens of the Project, respectively.

## Comment Set 51

### Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

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**From:** Tom Roberts [tc.roberts@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 27, 2003 11:28 PM  
**To:** jeffmartin@aspenerg.com  
**Cc:** tom.schoenstein  
**Subject:** Jefferson Martin Transmission Line Comments

Dear Ms. Blanchard,

I'm a resident of San Francisco and an environmental activist with a large organization. I'm writing in support of the proposed Jefferson Martin Transmission Line.

I believe conservation is the best energy source and it is the only source environmentalists can support without reservation. We are generally opposed to a project like this because the additional electricity it brings to the peninsula decreases the effectiveness of conservation efforts and generally increases demand. It also has short and long-term environmental impacts along its path. However in this particular case, any adverse impacts are outweighed by its main environmental benefit to San Francisco: it is the best way to shut down dirty power plants at Hunter's Point and Potrero Hill. Because of the age of these plants, they emit much higher concentrations of air pollutants than newer designs. Many reports have shown a high incidence of asthma and other respiratory diseases in the relatively poor neighborhoods that border these plants.

Environmentalists would like to replace these old plants with solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources and is actively working to increase the city's use of these "green" sources. Unfortunately, renewable energy cannot replace all the capacity that would be lost by closing these plants. The only viable alternative currently being considered is a new natural gas powered plant, Potrero #7, which is being reviewed by the CEC. While this plant would have cleaner emissions than the older plants, it burns a limited resource and still dumps tons of pollution into the local environment. If it is built, other cleaner sources will be slower to develop since supply will exceed demand for many years.

In the near term, the energy flowing into the JM line will likely come from natural gas fired plants, but there is no reason this couldn't change as new renewable sources come online to meet the state's RPS. The JM line could bring energy from large wind farms and remote geothermal plants to the peninsula.

This project will have adverse effects to the people of San Mateo County. The construction will cause noise and traffic delays and will disrupt natural ecosystems. Any portions above ground will have a visual impact and raise concerns of EMFs. I hope these impacts will be minimized, but whatever the magnitude, they will be worthwhile if they lead to the shutdown of Hunter's Point. The main benefit of this project is a reduction in respiratory disease of children unable to move out of the shadow of the smoke stacks. The main benefit of this project is human lives.

Sincerely,

Tom Roberts  
550 14th Street, #103  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415-487-2386

tc.roberts@mindspring.com  
(415) 203-2781

51-1

## Responses to Comment Set 51 – Tom Roberts

- 51-1 The commenter's support of the Proposed Project is noted. Mitigation measures developed for each issue area in Section D of the EIR are proposed to reduce the effects of potential environmental impacts, including construction and ecosystem disturbances. Please see Response to Comment CC8-6 for a discussion of energy conservation, renewable resources, and the closure of Hunters Point Power Plant (HPPP) Unit 4.

## Comment Set 52

### Jefferson-Martin Transmission Project

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**From:** Nuri Otus [nurio@auctionet.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 28, 2003 8:11 AM  
**To:** jeffmartin@aspeneq.com  
**Cc:** Jack & Marilee Minkel  
**Subject:** PG&E'S project near 280 in Hillsborough, Millbrae and San Mateo

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to advise you that my family is against the plans to build 25 foot taller and much wider power towers at the existing sites along Highway 280!

This plan will expose my family to Much higher EMF exposure than currently exists. An unnecessary health risk for my family!

There is no choice but to either go over by the watershed or go underground along the current route.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

**Nuri Otus**

**1872 Black Mountain Road**

**Hillsborough, CA 94010**

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52-1

52-2

8/28/03

## Responses to Comment Set 52 – Nuri Otus

- 52-1 The commenter's opposition to the Proposed Project is noted. Please see General Response GR-1 for a discussion of EMF.
- 52-2 The commenter's support for a watershed route or an underground line in the current route is noted. An all-underground line in the existing ROW was eliminated from consideration due to significant biological and technical and regulatory feasibility concerns. Please see Response to Comment PPH1-10 regarding routes west of I-280. It is noted that a significant portion of the Partial Underground Alternative would be west of I-280 (north of Hayne Road) and it would be underground along the areas of San Mateo Highlands and Hillsborough.