

# Ohlone Audubon Society, Inc.

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
Southern Alameda County, California

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July 24, 2000

Judith Ikle, CPUC  
c/o Aspen Environmental Group  
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94104

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Report for Proposed Northeast  
San Jose Transmission Reinforcement Project.

Dear Ms. Ikle:

Ohlone Audubon Society has concerns that some of the proposed alternative transmission line routes would pass over Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) property. Ohlone would prefer that NO transmission lines cross the Refuge, since overhead lines are certain to cause bird strikes and bird mortality.

The Refuge was not established for the convenience of utility lines but to protect wildlife. The utility lines should be located as far from the Refuge as possible. Ohlone understands that there are some existing transmission lines across Refuge property, which existed prior to the establishment of the Refuge. Any additional lines would make an undesirable condition worse. There are alternative transmission line routes adjacent to I-880 which could be used very well. Any additional costs for these I-880 routes should be paid by the Santa Clara County power users.

The transmission lines crossing the King/Lyons development should also follow I-880, because mitigation wetlands in the development are planned to be part of the Refuge when the development is completed.

Ohlone also has concern about transmission lines infringing on the Coyote Creek Riparian mitigation site and the San Jose waste water treatment ponds. These areas have high bird usage and are involved in long term bird studies, which could be influenced by the addition of the transmission lines.

Ohlone would appreciate being kept informed of any decisions made regarding the transmission lines.

Sincerely yours,

*Frank and Janice Delfino*

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