Comment Set 3

Letter from Assemblyman Todd Spitzer, 71st District, dated April 5, 2004

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TODD SPITZER
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-FIRST DISTRICT

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April 5, 2004

California Public Utilities Commission
ATTN: Mr. Mike Rosauer, Project Manager
C/O Aspen Environmental Group
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 215
Agoura Hills, California 91301

Re: Application No. 03-03-043
Southern California Edison Viejo System Project

Dear Mr. Rosauer:

This letter is regarding Southern California Edison's (SCE) proposal to install towers and transmission wires along the 3.1 miles of their corridor running from a new substation in Lake Forest to an existing substation in Mission Viejo.

It is my understanding that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is evaluating SCE's proposal. I would like the CPUC to consider the passion and keen interest of the public on this issue. At the CPUC hearing on March 25th, there was overwhelming testimony and support to conduct an Environmental Impact Report. I concur with that recommendation. There are many constituents in my district who have expressed both aesthetic and health concerns. 3-1

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you should have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Todd Spitzer

TODD SPITZER
Assemblyman, 71st District

TS:kk

Response to Comment Set 3
Letter from Assemblyman Todd Spitzer, 71st District, dated April 5, 2004

3-1 Thank you for sharing the concerns of your constituents. The comments provided at the March 25 hearing will be considered by the Commission in rendering a decision on the proposed project. Adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is appropriate when the lead agency determines that any potentially significant impacts can be avoided or reduced to a less-than-significant level with mitigation measures incorporated into the project. Preparation of an EIR is only required when there is substantial evidence in the record indicating that a project may have a significant adverse impact. At this time, the CPUC's conclusion is that all potentially significant impacts can be mitigated to less-than-significant levels by measures presented in the MND. Please refer to General Response GR-6 for more information. The public's concerns will be given serious consideration by the Commission in deciding whether to approve or deny the proposed project, but the existence of public controversy over the environmental effects of a project is not an adequate basis for a decision to prepare an EIR [CEQA Guidelines § 15064(f)(4)].