



**CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES**  
*"The Pass of the Oaks"*

May 6, 2019

Mr. Rob Peterson  
California Public Utilities Commission  
(c/o Tom Engels)  
Horizon Water and Environment LLC  
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2500  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
estrellaproject@horizonh2o.com

**RE: Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project: Draft Alternatives Screening Report**

Dear Mr. Peterson:

On behalf of the City of El Paso de Robles, I offer the following comments on the draft Alternatives Screening Report (ASR) for the Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Reinforcement Project (Project):

1. The City is concerned about any alternative that requires a significant increase to the Paso Robles substation as there is little usable land in the area of the substation. Any alternative that proposes expansion of the Paso Robles substation area would require the dislocation of existing businesses, potential impact on transportation infrastructure, disruption of the existing natural environment, and aesthetic degradation. Thus, this should not be considered a feasible alternative in the draft environmental impact report (EIR).
2. The City prefers the original Project routing: from the proposed Estrella substation, crossing Hwy 46E, passing through an industrial park, and then continuing north and west to the current transmission line, for economic, environmental, and community-building reasons. It is essential that this feasible route be considered in the draft EIR.
3. The City expects that there may be substantial economic development value to the routing through the industrial park, and also making it less expensive to serve businesses that would locate there. To that end, the City would consider minor changes to the routing to better serve the Project and the developing industries.
4. The City does not support the southern options based on the Templeton substation and following the Salinas River, or the option using River Road and Charolais Road corridors, for economic, environmental, and aesthetic reasons. Among other environmental reasons, there are many heritage oak trees in that area that would either need to be removed, or would be significantly impacted by the transmission lines.

5. The City has considered the opportunities for batteries as identified in the ASR. A few things to be considered in this regard. First, the City does not own all of the sites identified. Second, the City property at the northeast corner of South River Road and Charolais Road is already planned, to include a large parking lot, restrooms, trailhead, and other amenities. There is not room on this site for a battery installation. Third, the City is currently working on a 4.3 megawatt solar installation at the airport. There may be a good opportunity for a battery installation associated with the airport site.
6. The City has heard from the San Antonio Winery. They are concerned about large transmission poles located adjacent to their new facility. If there are ways to move the original routing slightly to avoid this winery but still traverse the industrial park, we would consider that an improvement to the routing in the ASR. The City has also heard concerns from some of the residents of the Circle B area north of the City and understand that they will submit their own comments. Circle B is not within the City limits.

The City appreciates the opportunity to comment. As stated in previous communications, the City requests that it be added to the CPUC's mailing list for the Project and that the City be sent copies of all public meeting/hearing notices and other documents under CEQA and the Ralph M. Brown Act, as required by Public Resources Code section 21092 and Government Code section 54954.1. Please provide the City with physical copies of any such notices or other documents at 1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446 and electronic copies at [dmckinley@prcity.com](mailto:dmckinley@prcity.com)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Thomas Frutchey  
City Manager