

January 14, 2020

Mr. Rob Peterson, CPUC
C/O Tom Engles, Ph.D.
Horizon Water and Environment, LLC
266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210
Oakland, CA 94610

Re: Opposition to SE-PLR-2, Templeton - S. River Road Route Alternative

Dear Dr. Engels,

I oppose the S. River Road route alternative for the following serious reasons:

1. **Wildfire Danger: The South River Road alternative (SE-PLR-2) and the Templeton Substation are both situated entirely within the HIGH FIRE HAZARD ZONE.** Santa Ysabel Ranch development is in the midst of a high fire hazard zone. The substation to which these high power lines will be connected is also entirely situated within a high fire hazard zone. Alternative routes noted are in low fire hazard zones. Why is this route even under consideration?
2. **Installation and construction of these towers run the risk of a wildfire outbreak:** Per the DEIR 4.9-38 "any accidental ignition from construction equipment or the electrified 70 kV power line once operational could have significant effects on the surrounding rural residential community along South River Road and surrounding areas". Long before the final installation of these poles, and a wildfire, the very process of installing these poles present a real risk that a wildfire could be started. As this development is in a high fire hazard zone - the intentional act of setting this transmission line here is unthinkable.
3. **Transmission lines installed in a high fire hazard zone dramatically increase the risk of wildfire.** The equipment in both the Camp Fire Nov 2018 and the Kincade Fire Oct 2019 was determined to be the cause of the wildfires. This equipment is the same proposed for this alternative route. Knowingly installing this equipment in a high fire hazard zone is an irresponsible decision - particularly when other alternate routes in low fire hazard zones are available.

Eliminating this route is the only reasonable choice.

Thank you,

