

January 16, 2021

Rob Peterson, CPUC  
c/o Tom Engels, PhD  
Horizon Water and Environment, LLC  
266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210  
Oakland, CA 94610

**Subject: Opposition to Estrella Project SE-PLR-2, Templeton - S. River Route Alternative**

Dear Dr. Engels:

I oppose the Templeton-S. River Route Alternative for the following reasons:

- Templeton-S. River Route Alternative is entirely within a High Fire Hazard Zone. This is extremely alarming since both the Camp Fire (that destroyed the town of Paradise in November 2018) and the Kincadee fire in October of 2019 were determined to have been caused by PG&E transmission lines of the same type being considered for S. River Road. Please do not put us at additional risk by allowing this route to proceed. We must be able to learn from our past mistakes and better plan for the future.
- A fire on S. River Road would make evacuation of Santa Ysabel Ranch very dangerous. The steep hill of the Blue Oak woods would mean that the fire would climb very quickly, spreading to more homes and impacting evacuation. Santa Ysabel Ranch has three automated gates – two of which evacuate onto S. River Road. How would the residents be able to safely evacuate while the emergency vehicles could enter to fight the fire?
- New power generation should be placed near the area of growth. Growth for Paso Robles is expected to happen north and east, near the Paso Robles Airport. This project should be forward-thinking and an example of what can be done to solve energy needs in California, rather than consider continuing to use 19<sup>th</sup> century technology when the 21<sup>st</sup> century technology of energy storage would solve the problem.
- The energy required for our area, [REDACTED] is small enough (.53MW) that it can be accomplished with battery or thermal storage.

Templeton has no capacity for substantial residential or commercial growth, and a power line on S. River Road is contrary to the California policy targeting non-wire alternatives.

- Our community is fortunate enough to have resident Golden Eagles (and visiting Bald Eagles) would be endangered by high power lines on S iver Road, a known wildlife migration path. There are several Golden Eagles nests on SYR. We have photos of young in the nests for four of the past five years. Construction of the lines on S River Road is estimated to take nine months. The eagles may be killed due to electrocution/collision with the power lines.

The risk to our personal safety, our neighborhood, our wildlife and our overall fire danger would be raised significantly. For the sake of public safety and wildlife preservation, please do not put a transmission line along S. River Road.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]