

Rob Peterson, CPUC
% Tom Engels
Horizon Water and Environment, LLC
266 Grand Avenue, Suite 210
Oakland, Ca 94610

December 22, 2020

Dear Dr Engels,

We oppose the S River Route Alternative to SE-PLR-2 in Templeton. The poles for the transmission lines would be hard to ignore and the beauty of the area dramatically impacted in a negative way. The removal of Heritage Oak trees to install the poles could be significant and they are irreplaceable. Obviously the impact on property values would be devastating for those who own properties in the area. Besides the obtrusiveness of the structures to be installed there are several risks involved that we feel negate the benefits of the project. For all these reasons we oppose this project. Some of the risks are listed below.

FIRE RISK

The proposed area is considered as a High Fire Hazard Zone. The proposed transmission lines are similar to the ones that caused recent fires in California, meaning this could happen here. There is plenty of dry grasses and forested areas to fuel any fire that might occur. The narrow, winding rural roads would make the evacuations very difficult should a fire take place in this area with the Santa Ysabel Ranch Community especially at risk for evacuation due to gates at the exits slowing the departure of the residents. The risk is too great.

HEALTH RISKS

Several homes would be within 200 feet of the proposed poles which is too close to the electromagnetic field generated by a high voltage transmission line. Human habitation should be at least 800-1200 feet away according to the recommended safety zone.

GOLDEN EAGLES

Not only humans are at risk. This is a known wildlife migration path that would endanger the resident Golden Eagles in the area, as well as other visiting birds such as the Bald Eagles. The power lines could cause electrocution or collisions.

Thank you for taking the time to address our concerns. We have lived in this area for 27 years and would hate to see our beautiful bucolic countryside evolve into industrial landscape, with increased risks for fire, health and wildlife.

Sincerely,

