

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. This is documented in both the EIR and the Paso Robles Local Hazard Mitigation Plan - adopted in 2016.** Why would this route even be a consideration with these specific known hazards? PG&E has admitted that their equipment, much the same as proposed for this route, is responsible for causing catastrophic wildfires. Given the high hazard zone rating, this route must be ruled as such a high risk that to keep it as an option is unthinkable.
- 2. Restricted evacuation access: The presence of towering high power transmission lines complicate and potentially significantly restrict the only egress through which SYR residents would need to exit.** Well documented events of transmission lines being adversely effected by wildfires, resulting in failed insulation and subsequent arcing of electricity, would create such an unsafe environment, residents would not be able to access exit routes from a wildfire. We would be trapped without a safe route of escape.
- 3. Vegetation and topography: The SYR development is situated on rolling hills and steep inclines with heavily forested areas between homes.** This combination of vegetation and uphill slopes among homes make this location ripe for a fast spreading wildfire. While the development has undertaken mitigation efforts for wildfire risk, the addition of dangerously high voltage, high altitude towers with a history of failure of both contributing and causal wildfire involvement renders those efforts near useless.

With respect - please consider the real risks of irreplaceable lives and eliminate this alternative.

Thank you,

