

January 8, 2021

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

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

Dear Dr. Engels,

I would like the chance to voice my opposition to the proposed S. River Route Alternative for the following reasons:

- 1) This route (SE-PLR-2) and the Templeton Substation are situated entirely in a fire zone. As you know, the California fire season has increased in both length and severity in recent years and route placement such as this would only exacerbate the issue. This is the only route combination that is FULLY within the High Fire Hazard Zone. There is also a high probability that a fire could be started accidentally during construction from construction equipment. I cannot understand why this route would even be considered with the high potential of harm to both property and lives.
- 2) The power lines in the proposed route are the same type implicated in the 2018 Camp Fire and 2019 Kincade Fire. We cannot risk such dangerous equipment being placed so close to homes and dry vegetation.
- 3) Assuming these lines sparked a wildfire, their placement would severely impact evacuation paths for the entirety of Santa Ysabel Ranch. Two of the community's three evacuation routes flow directly onto South River Road. A fire started on River Road would reduce all resident & visitor evacuations to a single exit, costing precious time. This would dramatically increase the chance of injuries and death.
- 4) Templeton has very little capacity for substantial residential or commercial growth. Growth for Paso Robles is expected to occur north and east, near the Paso airport. Put the substation near the growth path rather than the opposite end of the area.
- 5) The unmatched beauty of S. River Road and SYR would be destroyed by 20 massive steel poles. This one of the last pastoral and serene routes entering Paso. Destroying the natural beauty of this route would be a travesty. One that you could never reverse. In addition, this proposed project is NOT consistent with SLO County's current general plan which clearly identifies aesthetics as one of the most important factors contributing to the County's "community character," this includes goals and policies that bear directly on the preservation of aesthetic character and visual recourses. I encourage you to drive the S River Road route in the early morning or at sunset. It is the most beautiful drive I have ever seen. I cannot imagine this being destroyed by 20 massive power poles, when there are clearly much better alternatives.

I humbly request that you take these arguments to heart when deciding on the power line route. I implore you to not put any power lines along S. River Road.

