

December 28, 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 detailed reasons:

1. **Wildlife Disturbance:** The SYR area has many unique and protected wildlife that will be severely disturbed and disrupted if enormous towers are erected on this route alongside the SYR acreage.
2. **Wildfire Danger:** The Templeton Substation and the South River Road alternative (SE-PLR-2) are both entirely situated within the high fire hazard zone as noted in the recently published EIR. Wildfires can blow from any and every direction into and across SYR. If high power transmission lines are paced alongside SRR and inside the SYR development, they will present a huge hazard to the SYR community should an accident occur because of the towers/high voltage lines.

This has occurred with the same equipment in the Camp Fire that destroyed the Paradise, CA community. The potential loss of life and property in SYR make this alternative route a complete non-starter. South River Road (SRR) is the only escape route out of the SYR development and our road, Warm Springs Lane, parallels SRR and is adjacent to the proposed high power transmission line. Additionally, Warm Springs Lane ends in a cul-de-sac. If the poles and lines fail/fall, we the residents will be trapped without an alternative exit.

3. **Low Energy Requirement Area:** Our development is in unincorporated Templeton, where our power utility is provided. This is a low growth capacity area and as reported, requiring a very limited increase in power for future needs. These can be easily satisfied with non-high power transmission lines, using power-saving technologies the state of California promotes as the future path of energy development/storing/delivery.

The immediate need and increased future demand for power is far greater for the developments planned east of Paso Robles.

In the East Paso Robles area, there are wide open spaces and large low fire-hazard zones and flatter terrain. Therefore, it makes better sense to choose a location/alternative route adjacent to the area of development for any power needs to support future growth.

4. **High Risk Equipment:** SYR is heavily wooded with majestic 200+ year old blue and live oaks, and some (invasive) highly flammable eucalyptus trees. The topography near the proposed transmission lines at this alternative site is hilly. This combination of hills and densely wooded areas presents a high risk wildfire condition. Many homeowners insurers have refused to provide property insurance because of this zoning — without the complication of high power transmission lines inside/alongside the development.

These proposed high power transmission towers/lines are the same/similar equipment cited as cause in the 2018 Camp Fire and the 2019 Kincaid Fire. So, if this equipment fails/falls the whole SYR area is at immediate risk of being engulfed in a fire-wall without an escape route.

5. **Elderly and Disabled People:** The SYR community has many elderly residents and several are not as nimble, adaptable, cognitively sound and responsive in an emergency situation. My family unit includes an elder, with restrictive mobility. We would have extreme difficulty evacuating her swiftly, in the case of a fire or earthquake that might be additionally complicated with failing and falling towers and power lines. These added risks are so threatening to the safety of our elderly community I believe that this proposed route should be eliminated without further consideration.
6. **Earthquake - Fault Line:** The route proposed for the installation of these power lines in this alternative lies directly on top clearly defined fault lines. Therefore, it is folly logic to place these lines here; strongly suggest alternatives move ahead of this route.
7. **Aesthetics:** From the initial concept of the SYR development, planning and installation of all utilities were designed to be underground. This maintains the integrity of the rural setting and provides a safety feature not typical in many urban developments. The proposal to install these huge and ugly power lines and towers alongside and within the SYR development is completely counter to all that SYR has achieved in maintaining the aesthetics of the area. I believe that these towers should not be erected here, scarring the landscape.

For these principal seven reasons and many others noted in previous submissions and reports, I strongly urge you to eliminate the Templeton - South River Road option for this project.

Yours Sincerely,

