

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

January 8, 2021

**Re: Opposition to SE-PLR-2, Templeton-S. River Route Alternate
Estrella Substation and Paso Robles Area Reinforcement Project**

Dear Dr. Engels,

I oppose the above referenced Alternative for the Estrella Substation Project for the following reasons:

We live in Santa Ysabel Ranch and are in a County designated High Fire Hazard area as is the entire route of this Alternate. 70kV power transmission lines going down S. River Road approximately 200 feet from our front door greatly increases our risk of fire and decreases our ability to safely evacuate. Two out of the three exits from Santa Ysabel Ranch flow to S. River Road. The third is over 2 miles away and would be the single lane egress for potentially 142 houses.

S. River Road, between Neal Spring Rd. and Charolais, is a scenic area, dotted with many Heritage Oaks. The number of pylons required would destroy a large number of these oaks. It is also a desirable area in which to live. The building of this transmission line would have dramatic and negative impact on property values and resale potential. It is an unfair and needless burden to place on residents when alternatives like battery and thermal energy storage are options. In addition and as reported in Table 5-3 Cost Calculations, footnote 3, the upgrading of the Templeton Substation would be more expensive than the proposed project. This does not make fiscal sense.

Furthermore, Santa Ysabel Ranch is home to nesting Golden Eagles, visiting Bald Eagles, numerous pairs of Red-tailed Hawks and other protected raptors. These proposed transmission lines would have a severe impact on their movement and make the likelihood of electrocution very high.

Please reject the SE-PLR-2 Alternate.

