

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

January 4, 2021

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

Dear Dr. Engels,

I wanted to share with you my opposition to and my concerns with the CPUC Estrella Project route alternative, SE-PLR-2 South River Route due to Wildfire Danger, some points of concerns are listed below.

1) The S. River Rd. alternative (SE_PLR-2) and the Templeton Substation sit entirely within the HIGH FIRE HAZARD ZONE. This is the only route combination that is fully within the High Fire Hazard Zone. Why is this even being considered?

2) Transmission lines in a high fire hazard area will greatly increase our risk of wildfire. Both the Camp Fire in Nov. 2018 (that burned Paradise) and the Kincade Fire in Oct. 2019 were determined to have been caused by PG&E transmission lines...the same type of lines being considered for S. River Road. The steep hill of the Blue Oak forest would mean that the fire would climb very quickly, spreading to more homes and impacting evacuation.

3) A fire could be ignited during construction. From DEIR 4.9-38 "any accidental ignition from construction equipment or the electrified 70 kV power line once operational could have significant effects on the surrounding rural residential community along South River Road and surrounding areas".

4) In case of a fire on S. River Road, evacuation of SYR would be extremely limited as 2 of the 3 SYR exits flow onto S. River Road. Residents of all 146 lots of SYR + the 100 non-resident vehicles (average, per day) would have to evacuate through the single-lane Hanging Tree gate. How long would that take? How would emergency vehicles get into the Ranch?

5) Between the oak trees and dry grasses, SYR is covered in dense fuel for a fire. The hill containing the Blue Oak forest is very steep. These two conditions would make for fast-moving and devastating fire.

6) Growth for Paso Robles is expected to happen north and east, near the Paso airport. Put the substation near the growth rather than at the opposite end of the area. Templeton has no capacity for substantial residential or commercial growth. Our residents should not have to shoulder the burden for the growth in developing areas.

7) This project should be forward-thinking and an example of what can be done to solve energy needs in California. Why would the CPUC consider using 19th century technology when the 21st century technology of energy storage would solve the problem?

As a proud resident of Santa Ysabel Ranch in Templeton, I am asking for your support in opposing this project and your involvement is greatly appreciated.

