

December 21, 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. Engles,

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, as noted in the EIR. A wildfire could blow into Santa Ysabel Ranch from any and every direction. High power transmission lines placed along SRR and inside the development present a tremendous hazard to our community and lives, very much in the manner that the same equipment was cited in the Camp Fire that destroyed the community of Paradise, CA. The potential for loss of life never mind loss of property make this alternative completely unimaginable.

Additionally, SRR is our only escape route out of the development and Warm Springs Lane runs parallel and adjacent to the proposed line of the high power transmission lines. Should the pole or the lines fail and fall, Warm Springs Lane residents would be trapped without any exit alternative.

2. **High Risk Equipment:** High power towering transmission equipment similar to the equipment proposed for this alternative, were cited as causal in both the Camp 2018 and Kincaid 2019, fires. Our development is nested amongst 200 year old and older blue and live oaks and some volunteer (avian) planted eucalyptus. The development topography behind Warm Springs Road is hilly. This combination of hilly and highly wooded areas would facilitate potentially explosive expansion of a wildfire should the equipment fail, accelerating fire spread. This could result in Warm Spring Lane residents being engulfed in wildfire from the front and the rear. There would not be any exit option.
3. **Low energy requirements area:** Santa Ysabel Ranch - along South River Road is located in Templeton, CA. Templeton has minor growth capacity and per the report requires a very limited increase of power resources for future needs. The need and future demand for power is far more significant for developments planned east of Paso Robles. Given the open space and non-high fire hazard zone conditions east of Paso, choosing an alternative that supports the growth, co-located with the development seemingly makes more sense. Providing the minor increase of power resources for Templeton, through newer non-high power transmission lines technologies, is in keeping with the California proposal of advanced energy technologies.

I implore you to consider other locations and alternatives for power infrastructure development other than Templeton - South River Road option.

Respectfully,

