

December 18, 2020

Mr. Rob Peterson, CPUC  
c/o Mr. Tom Engels  
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 Mr. Peterson and Mr. Engels,

I oppose the S. River Road Route Alternative for the following reasons:

**Native American Heritage:** The Spanish Camp and Santa Ysabel Ranch area has a rich and varied history. This area was inhabited for thousands of years by Salinan and Chumash Native Americans who considered the warm springs by the present day S. River Road to have magical curative powers. The Santa Ysabel Ranch has been deemed sensitive for cultural resources, and several sites near the proposed power line are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. There is a danger that construction would disturb such Native American sites.

**Visual Pollution:** The bucolic beauty of S. River Road and the adjacent Spanish Camp and Santa Ysabel Ranch with its large heritage oak trees would be devastated by the proposed 20 massive steel poles and power lines. This is one of the last pastoral routes between Paso Robles and Templeton. In the late 1800's and early 1900's, Lake Ysabel on the Ranch was a park-like retreat for visitors to enjoy the outdoors. It would be a tragedy to so negatively impact what remains of this beautiful area.

**Property Values:** Constructing a 70 KVA power transmission line would dramatically impact Santa Ysabel Ranch and Spanish Camp property owners due to the visual deterioration and unknown human health effects of electromagnetic radiation. It is not necessary in order to achieve PG&E's project objectives to destroy property values when perfectly acceptable alternatives exist such as the northern routes which go through agricultural property.

**Wildlife:** Santa Ysabel Ranch has resident Golden Eagles (and visiting Bald Eagles) which will be endangered by these power lines. They could be killed due to electrocution or collision with the power lines, or confused by the emitted electromagnetic radiation. Kit foxes also roam the area and could choose to avoid the electromagnetic radiation from the lines.

**Fire Danger/Resident Safety:** A 70 KVA transmission line will greatly increase the danger of a fire in the Spanish Camp/Santa Ysabel Ranch neighborhoods. This area is designated a High Fire Hazard Zone with fuel provided by the oak trees and dry grass in summer. The DEIR states that construction of the line itself could ignite a fire very close

to surrounding homes. Also, South River Road is near a branch of the Riconada Fault. If a major earthquake were to occur during high fire season, the transmission lines could ignite the combustible fuel and move rapidly into the adjacent homes endangering the lives of residents. If the lines are down, thus blocking the S. River Road exits, there is only one remaining exit for the 140 residents of Santa Ysabel Ranch on Hanging Tree Lane. This too would be the only entry for emergency vehicles into the Ranch. This road is narrow and will not accommodate both residents fleeing and emergency vehicles entering the property. Such a situation would create a major safety issue for residents and liability exposure for PG&E.

In consideration of the concerns above, please do not construct a power transmission line along South River Road. A route north of the Paso Robles airport is a much more feasible solution.

Sincerely,

