

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

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

Dear Dr. Engles,

As a resident of Santa Ysabel Ranch for nearly 12 years, I **OPPOSE** the S. River Route Alternative for the following reasons:

Transmission lines in a recognized Wildfire Area greatly increases our risk of a devastating fire.

Santa Ysabel Ranch is located within a High Fire Hazard Zone and is the only route combination that is fully within the High Fire Hazard Zone. Both the Camp Fire (that destroyed Paradise, CA and killed 86 people) and the Kincade Fire were determined to have been caused by PG&E power transmission line. 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". One more important point I would like to mention concerning wildfire risk as it relates to this proposed South River Road Route Alternative concerns insurability for homeowners for homes in and around high wildfire risk zones. Approximately one month prior to renewal of my home insurance policy that insured my home since my move in date (July, 2009) I was notified by my carrier (SAFECO) that they had designated this area as a high fire risk area and indicated that they would not renew my policy as a result. Fortunately, I was able to find a carrier (USAA) to write coverage prior to cancellation. If your proposed route for South River Road had been approved and the project built out

two years prior, I sincerely doubt that insurance carriers would be renewing coverages, given the increased risk that transmission lines would impose on their overall risk analysis.

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS PROPOSED ROUTE TO PROCEED AS IT PLACES RESIDENTS IN AND AROUND THE ROUTE AREA AT SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED RISK TO OUR HOMES, AND OUR LIVES!

The pastoral "country life" beauty of South River Road and Santa Ysabel Ranch would be significantly decimated by 20 massive steel poles needed for high electric transmission lines.

This is one of the last pastoral routes entering Paso Robles. Destroying the aesthetics and natural scenery of this route would be a real tragedy and it would significantly impact the quality of life that residents of this corridor and others enjoy and appreciate. Your proposed alignment is not consistent with San Luis Obispo County's current General Plan which identifies aesthetics as a key factor contributing to the County's "community character" and this includes goals and policies that bear directly on the preservation of aesthetic character and visual resources. Specifically, the Santa Ysabel Ranch gated HOA development with its 146 homesites within its +-650 acres (the majority of which is designated as common area) includes one of the few remaining Heritage Blue Oak forests in California. Each Blue Oak tree has a numbered tag on it's trunk that the County required for identification purposes to preclude any removal without County approval. Several miles of walking trails exist for residents and their guests that meander up, down and throughout the Ranch, around its pond with ducks, mud hens, geese, great blue herons and egrets can be viewed. In addition, the Ranch has become a nesting site for several pairs of Golden Eagles and also occasional visits by Bald Eagles. Also, the Ranch is home to many other birds including various Hawk species, Great Horned Owls, Dove, Quail, and many, many others...

THESE ARE KEY AESTHETICS THAT SUPPORT THE COUNTY'S GENERAL PLAN FOR "COMMUNITY CHARACTER" AND VISUAL RESOURCES AND

**PARTICULARLY ARE ALSO KEY INGREDIENTS TO MAINTAINING
PROPERTY VALUES THAT RESIDENTS HAVE CHOSEN AND BOUGHT
INTO. ALL WOULD BE IMPACTED NEGATIVELY IF THE SOUTH RIVER
ROAD ROUTE IS CHOSEN.**

Sincerely,

