

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION
Service and Safety Branch

RESOLUTION NO. E-3118
November 9, 1988

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION NO. E-3118, ORDER AUTHORIZING MR. EDWARD WALKER TO DEVIATE FROM SECTION 320 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE OF THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, UNDERGROUNDING OF ELECTRICAL AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ALONG STATE SCENIC HIGHWAYS.

SUMMARY

1. On September 16, 1988, Mr. Edward Walker applied through Pacific Gas and Electric Company to the California Public Utilities Commission to deviate from Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code. Section 320 requires electric and communication distribution facilities to be installed underground, if they are within 1000 feet and visible from a scenic highway. The Service and Safety Branch (staff) recommends the approval of this resolution to deviate from Public Utilities Code Section 320, to allow Mr. Walker to extend a 21 kV overhead electric line north along Pine Cone Drive in Kyburz to his new home. The line extension will be within 1000 feet of U.S. Highway 50, a state scenic highway, but will have no significant visual impact on this scenic corridor.

DISCUSSION

1. On September 16, 1988, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, on behalf of Mr. Edward Walker, requested a deviation from Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code. Mr. Walker's property is located at 11502 Pine Cone Drive in Kyburz--approximately 510 feet north of U.S. Highway 50--a state scenic highway.

2. At present, there is a 21 kV overhead line along Pine Cone Drive which dead ends as the road curves north. Mr. Walker proposes extending this line 180 feet north along Pine Cone Drive to serve his new home. This proposed line extension will require the dead ended pole to be replaced with a 45 foot pole--10 feet higher than its present length. A new 45 foot pole will also be installed at Mr. Walker's lot to facilitate the proposed line extension. Service drops from this pole will serve Mr. Walker's new home and three other presently undeveloped lots.

3. Staff engineers met with two PG&E representatives and Mr. Walker's representative, at Mr. Walker's lot on September 30, 1988. The staff engineers found that the existing 21 kV line and the dead ended pole are both currently visible from U.S. Highway 50. The proposed new pole at Mr. Walker's lot and the new line from the dead ended pole, however, will not be visible from the highway. Since the dead ended pole is located up grade from U.S. Highway 50 and is separated from the highway by private homes and trees, increasing its height will have a minimal visual impact on this highway.

4. A short stretch of a 21 kV underground line of approximately 180 feet is considered by the staff to be piecemeal underground construction that is wasteful and without significant public benefits.

5. The cost of undergrounding the proposed line, according to PG&E, is approximately \$4,500, whereas an overhead line will be installed at no expense to Mr. Walker under PG&E tariff Rule 15.

6. Accordingly, the staff recommends that Mr. Edward Walker be granted a deviation from Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code.

FINDINGS

1. We find that the proposed 21 kV overhead line extension will have a negligible visual impact on the U.S. Highway 50 scenic corridor.

2. Undergrounding of the 21 kV line in accordance with Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code in this instance is not necessary. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. A deviation of Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code be granted to Mr. Edward Walker for construction of a 21 kV overhead line to his lot located at 11502 Pine Cone Drive in Kyburz, California, in accordance with PG&E drawing no. W110322G.

This order is effective today.

I certify that this resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on November 9, 1988. The following Commissioner(s) approved it.

STANLEY W. HULETT
President
DONALD VIAL
FREDERICK R. DUDA
G. MITCHELL WILK
JOHN B. OHANIAN
Commissioners

Clifton Whipple
Executive Director

