



CITY OF NORCO

HORSETOWN USA

March 4, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP) Application 15-04-013 (Failure to Address Fire Hazard Mitigation).

Dear Governor Newsom:

In my capacity as the Mayor of the City of Norco, California, I am writing on behalf of the entire City Council and residents to express the City's opposition to the overhead high voltage lines known as the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP).

This matter is being brought to your attention because the City needs your help to deal with the potentially severe negative impact this project as currently planned would have on our Norco Community. Tragically, in addition to previous area fires, this letter is being written as the Mann Fire burns in the area of the proposed project. Thus far, it has covered 175 acres and has resulted in the evacuation of schools and several hundred homes.

We have previously expressed our concerns to CPUC, City of Riverside, Southern California Edison, State and local elected officials. Unfortunately, our pleas to have this project undergrounded through Norco neighborhoods and the Wildlife Preservation Area that is subject to frequent fires have been ignored.

The RTRP will construct tall, unsightly overhead transmission lines in close proximity to homes, recreational facilities, parks, trails, roadways and future development. The Project is proposed to be located within the Santa Ana River area, between the Hidden Valley Wildlife Refuge and the City, and, as proposed, will have a significant negative effect on existing neighborhoods and the wildlife riparian areas.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has designated the Santa Ana River a Level 2 Fire Zone. Cal Fire has also determined that this area is a high fire severity hazard zone which continues to be the subject of recent fires that have required the evacuation of residents, animals and the cancelation of homeowners insurance. Despite these factors, the CPUC has not required or asked Cal Fire to perform a formal assessment of this project, to provide a public report, nor to provide input into the environmental impact report for the Project.

CITY COUNCIL

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As the Governor, we urge you to direct Cal Fire to perform this important assessment and provide a report before the Administrative Law Judge handling this case can issue a final ruling, or before the project can proceed further. We strong believe that this assessment will show overriding public safety needs for the RTRP transmission lines to be undergrounded throughout the Santa Ana River and Norco neighborhoods.

Respectfully submitted,



Berwin Hanna,
Mayor, City of Norco

Copy: Norco City Council Members
Members of the California Public Utilities Commission
California Wildfire Safety Board