

City of Jurupa Valley

Micheal Goodland, Mayor . Brian Berkson, Mayor Pro Tem .
Anthony Kelly Jr., Council Member . Lorena Barajas, Council Member . Chris Barajas, Council Member

December 21, 2018

VIA E-MAIL (liane.randolph@cpuc.ca.gov)

Commissioner Liane Randolph
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 93102

Re: Application No. A.15-04-013, Southern California Edison's Riverside Transmission Reliability Project

Dear Commissioner Randolph:

As City Manager of the City of Jurupa Valley, I am writing on behalf of the City to extend you an invitation to visit our city and meet with its residents regarding the above-referenced application currently before the California Public Utilities Commission. As you are aware, in Application No. 15-04-013, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP), the purpose of which is to provide Riverside Public Utilities and its customers with adequate transmission capacity to serve its existing and projected load. RTRP will solely benefit the City of Riverside and its residents, but the City of Jurupa Valley and its residents will suffer grave financial and socioeconomic impacts if the application is granted in the form requested by SCE.

The incorporation of the City of Jurupa Valley, which was spearheaded by a group of community volunteers, occurred on July 1, 2011. One of the primary reasons for incorporation was the strong desire for local control over planning and zoning issues. SCE, if successful in obtaining Commission approval for its recommended variation of RTRP, which includes running overhead transmission lines through a portion of the City under active development (referred to as the area North of Limonite Ave.), will succeed in undermining the foundation on which the City was incorporated. The area in which SCE proposes to construct the overhead elements of the RTRP currently consists of temporary agricultural use, however is slated for future large scale commercial, residential and potential recreational development. Specific Plans are currently in place for the over 300 acres of prime development area adjacent to the I-15 Fwy which is impacted by the RTRP overhead line project. As the newest city in California, and serving a significant number of low income and ethnic minority residents, any loss of potential future housing opportunities, and revenue and employment generating capacity, will be severely detrimental to the future ability of the City to adequately service these residents.

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The City recognizes that SCE has the obligation to secure reliable electric service to its customers and, to that end, has supported undergrounding of the RTRP in the North of Limonite Ave. area of Jurupa Valley in which SCE has proposed an overhead transmission line. In fact, the Subsequent Final Environmental Impact Statement has determined that the alternative which undergrounds the lines North of Limonite Ave. in Jurupa Valley is the environmentally superior alternative. Despite this, SCE continues to advance an alternative which would underground the line through a development sponsored by Lennar and under a golf course, while reverting to overhead lines through the North of Limonite Ave. area. SCE has not provided any explanation why it has agreed to, and now avidly supports, the undergrounding of the project in one location, but not another.

The City recognizes that its residents were provided an opportunity to provide input on the project through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) scoping process. A scoping meeting was held in the City in February of 2017. The high community interest in the project, and opposition to the running of overhead transmission lines through their community, was evident by the level of attendance - 245 people. Much of this opposition originates from affected persons of limited economic means, as reflected by the Petition led by the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice which was submitted as part of the CEQA scoping process. This petition garnered over 175 signatures. The scoping process for CEQA, however, is not designed for, nor does it take into account, community value issues of importance to City residents, nor environmental justice issues.

The residents of Jurupa Valley deserve to be heard on these issues by the Commission. To a large extent, they are not of the means to retain legal counsel nor attend administrative hearings or schedule meetings to meet with Commissioners in San Francisco. I hope you will find the time to visit our City and meet with its residents regarding these important issues.

I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of my request and please feel free to contact me at any time.

Respectfully,


Gary Thompson
City Manager
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cc: Service List, A. 15-04-013