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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 14, 2019

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Mr. Jensen Uchida
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Panorama Environmental, Inc.
717 Market Street, Suite 650
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP)

Dear Mr. Uchida:

I am writing regarding the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP) which is under review by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The cities of Eastvale and Norco are located within the 42nd Congressional District that I represent in the U.S. House of Representatives and lie within or are adjacent to the proposed RTRP route.

In a letter sent to the California Public Utilities Commission on May 17, 2018, the city of Eastvale expressed its concerns about the negative impacts the RTRP project will have on the city. The letter stated:

“...the City is concerned about the location of the proposed Overhead Transmission Lines, as they would highly visible from the City of Eastvale. Based on a review of the information provided in the Draft EIR, the proposed project would result in Significant and Unavoidable Impacts (Impact Aesthetics – C). This significant impact is illustrated in the photo simulations provided in the Aesthetics Section of the EIR. Although these facilities would not be located in with the City of Eastvale, they would be highly visible from within the City, and from the I-15, an essential gateway into the city.”

In a letter sent to the California Public Utilities Commission on May 15, 2018, the city of Norco also expressed its concerns about the negative impacts the RTRP project will have on the city. The letter stated:

“Construction of overhead transmission lines across the Santa Ana River and its natural landscape is aesthetically unacceptable because of negative impact on property values and recreation resources for residents and visitors as the lines are disruptive to scenic views and the visual character of the Santa Ana River corridor. Additionally, the City Council has concerns about the significant loss of agricultural land in this area resulting from this project, as well as the potential to fire safety.”

In the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report, the CPUC indicated that the Preferred Environmentally Superior Alternative is Alternative 1 "because it substantially reduces the long-term aesthetics impact of the riser poles and overhead transmission lines and agricultural impact from the loss of Prime Farmland of the Revised Project." Alternative 1 would result in essentially undergrounding the entire RTRP route north of the Santa Ana River.

I want to associate myself with and echo the concerns detailed by the cities of Eastvale and Norco in their communications with the CPUC. Given the fact that these communities will realize no benefit from the construction of the RTRP, I believe every consideration should be made to minimize the negative impacts to these cities. That is why I strongly urge the CPUC to pursue transmission line undergrounding in this portion of the RTRP route and minimize the aesthetic, recreational and property value impacts to these communities. Undergrounding in this area also minimizes the associated wildfire risks, which I know is a major priority for the CPUC.

I appreciate your consideration of the RTRP's impacts to the communities within the 42nd Congressional District. Please let me know of your plan to accommodate the concerns of the local area residents in this proposed project.

Sincerely,



KEN CALVERT

Member of Congress