

MARK TAKANO

41ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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March 6, 2019

Mr. Jensen Uchida
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Panorama Environmental, Inc.
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 740
San Francisco, CA 94111

RE: Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP)

Dear Mr. Uchida:

I am writing regarding the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP) which is currently under review by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). As Congressman for the 41st District, I represent two of the cities affected by the RTRP project: Jurupa Valley and Riverside.

In a letter sent to the California Public Utilities Commission on February 8, 2017, the City of Jurupa Valley expressed its concerns about the negative impacts the RTRP Project will have on the city. The letter stated:

“...the RTRP puts tall, overhead transmission lines in close proximity to homes, recreational facilities, parks, trails, roadways, and future developments...a tower collapse or line failure from such large transmission structures could have catastrophic safety impacts.

“...the Project is an immense industrial use that perpetuates further industrial uses by encroaching upon and destroying the viability of residential, commercial, and open space use in the City. Over 75% of the City’s residents are low and median-income minorities. These disadvantaged residents would unfairly bear the brunt of the Project’s impacts because much of the Project’s overhead alignment is located in the City...the City would lose further construction and development of residences and businesses and the value of existing residences and businesses in the area will be greatly diminished.

“...the Project places overhead transmission lines within jurisdictional waters and riparian habitats. Specifically, the Hidden Valley Wildlife Refuge...will be impacted by the Project’s location of towers and components in the refuge.”

Additionally, undergrounding of the RTRP in the Hidden Valley Wildlife Refuge will minimize the associated wildlife risks, which is a major problem for the CPUC.

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I strongly urge the CPUC to pursue the undergrounding of the RTRP and minimize the negative environmental, economic, recreational, and property value impacts it would have on these communities.

I share the concerns detailed by my constituents in the City of Jurupa Valley. These communities will realize no benefit from the construction of the RTRP and I believe every alternative should be considered to minimize the negative impacts to these communities.

Your consideration of the RTRP's impacts to the communities within my Congressional District are appreciated. I urge you to contact my District office as the CPUC accommodates for the concerns of local area residents in this proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Takano".

Mark Takano
Member of Congress