

23920 Valencia Blvd.
Suite 300
Santa Clarita
California 91355-2196
Website: www.santa-clarita.com

Phone
(661) 259-2489
Fax
(661) 259-8125



Celebrating 20 Years of Success

August 25, 2008

Mr. Alan J. Fohrer, Chairman and CEO
Southern California Edison
8631 Rush Street, Fourth Floor
Rosemead, CA 91770

SUBJECT: Antelope-Pardee 500-kV Transmission Project

Dear Mr. Fohrer:

We are writing to express our concern regarding the use of lattice steel towers (LST) for the Santa Clarita Valley segment of the Antelope-Pardee Transmission Project, and to request removal of the towers and use of tubular steel poles (TSP). The lattice steel towers are not in compliance with the original conditions of approval set forth by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), or with the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program established pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for this project. More importantly, the installation of the lattice steel towers breaks the commitment which Southern California Edison (SCE) made to the community!

We recognize the importance of the Antelope-Pardee Transmission Line Project for system-wide reliability and transmission of energy from renewable resources. However, we strongly feel the tubular steel poles must be used where technically feasible. The lattice steel towers create significant visual blight and are in direct contrast to commitments made by SCE to the residents of the Santa Clarita Valley.

SCE and its contractors were required to provide documentation to the CPUC and USDA Forest Service demonstrating where tubular steel poles (TSP) would lessen visual impact and where lattice steel towers (LST) would blend in a landform backdrop for this project. As stipulated under Mitigation Measure V-1A of the Final EIR/EIS, SCE was required to: 1) eliminate LSTs from the project and instead substitute TSPs to reduce the visual impacts of the project from residential locations; 2) demonstrate where TSPs would lessen visual impacts and where LSTs would blend in with the landform backdrop; and 3) consult with a visual specialist designated by the CPUC to ensure that all of the objectives of this mitigation measure were achieved if TSPs were in fact determined to be technically infeasible.



Mr. Alan J. Fohrer, Chairman and CEO
August 25, 2008
Page 2

According to a report prepared by SCE to the CPUC, dated January 11, 2008, it was concluded that the use of TSPs would be too costly and take too much time to manufacture. Therefore, LSTs would be used specifically within the Santa Clarita Valley segment of this project. In a letter from the City of Santa Clarita last April, when SCE was advised by the City that neither reduced construction time nor costs were reasons that rise to the level of being technically infeasible, the concerns went unanswered until the last few weeks, when residents began contacting our offices objecting to the use of LSTs. These same residents, many of whom are retired and living in a 55+ residential development, were assured through their participation in a public review process for this project that TSPs would be used. At that time, we, individually, began to inquire as to how this change could have happened without prior notification to our offices and without communication to the public, who have clearly expressed their interest in and concern about this project.

Through SCE's own documentation, it has not been demonstrated that the use of TSPs or a similar type structure cannot be engineered and therefore used for this project. In a meeting with representatives of the CPUC and SCE on August 19, 2008, SCE representatives were asked for an engineering report that documents whether the use of TSPs is feasible given the criteria set forth in Mitigation Measure V-1a. In terms of a time delay, we understand the USDA Forest Service has not yet even approved the portion of the project extending through the National Forest, the same action that the CPUC took over 17 months ago. During all this time, additional engineering studies and fabrication efforts could have begun and our constituents would not unnecessarily find themselves in a position having to oppose SCE's use of LSTs.

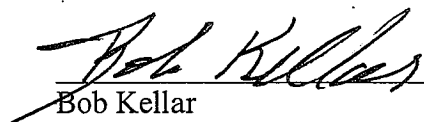
We are disappointed that SCE did not study all of the alternatives and conduct engineering beyond what is typically done, contrary to the spirit of the required mitigation and conditions of approval. The number and types of transmission lines already crossing the Santa Clarita Valley is extremely high for any community to welcome. As you may know, the EIR/EIS for L.A. Department of Water and Power's Barren Ridge Transmission project is already underway with similar impacts to this community. The proliferation of LSTs has both individual and cumulative visual impacts on the residents of our valley that should be taken into consideration and mitigated as required.

Last year, the City of Santa Clarita actively participated in evaluating the EIR/EIS for this project. Because of the inordinate amount of transmission lines that currently cross the Santa Clarita Valley, the City requested that an alternative location be evaluated that did not impact residents to the level that this project does. We were told by SCE and their attorneys at the time that an additional alternative would not even be studied as a part of the project. However, in recognition of concerns expressed about the project, at that time the City was advised that the project would be required to utilize treated TSPs with appropriate colors and finishes so they would effectively blend in with their surroundings.

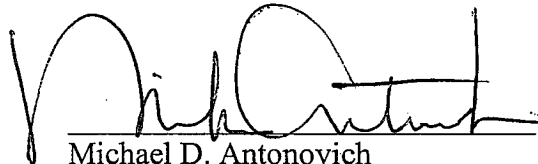
Mr. Alan J. Fohrer, Chairman and CEO
August 25, 2008
Page 3

Whereas SCE's project manager has stated that taking down the LSTs is unacceptable to SCE, please be advised that substituting the originally approved TSPs with highly visible black galvanized LSTs is unacceptable to the residents of the Santa Clarita Valley. We would greatly appreciate your review of this matter and an expeditious response to the concerns we have expressed on behalf of the residents of the Santa Clarita Valley.

Sincerely,



Bob Kellar
Mayor
City of Santa Clarita



Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor
5th District of Los Angeles County

BK:MPM:cf
s:ms:mpm/sceantelopeparadectransmission082608

cc: Santa Clarita City Council
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Senator George Runner
Assembly Member Cameron Smyth
Kenneth R. Pulskamp, City Manager
Ken Striplin, Assistant City Manager
Paul D. Brotzman, Director of Community Development
Michael Murphy, Intergovernmental Relations Officer
Laurence Chaset, Attorney, CPUC
Tom Flynn, CPUC
Christopher Coronel, SCE
Hunt Braly, Attorney at Law