



CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)

Scoping Comments

Proposed Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Line Project

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Name*: RACE J. CHEN

Affiliation (if any): *

Address*: 35 BERRYESSA WAY

City, State, Zip Code*: HILLSBOROUGH, CA 94010

Telephone Number*: 650-558-9688

Email*: LAKEVIEW88@HOTMAIL.COM

DEAR CPUC COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT. THE INCREASE IN VOLTAGE WOULD CREATE A "PERCEPTION" AND MAY BE SOME VERY REAL HEALTH ISSUES WITH PEOPLE LIVE NEAR THE LINE. IF THE INCREASE IN LINE CAPACITY IS PROVED TO BE REAL, THERE ARE OTHER ALTERNATIVE TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT. THE LINE CAN BE PARTIALLY BURIED, RELOCATED TO WEST OF 280. THIS IS A FAIRLY HIGH WIND AREA, THE HIGHER VOLTAGE LINE WILL INCREASE THE CHANCE OF LOSING MORE SUPPLY IF THE LINES CAME DOWN AND HARM RESIDENTS IN THE AREA MORE THAN THE BENEFIT. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS PROJECT NOT BASE ON ECONOMICS, RATHER HUMAN & ENVIRONMENTAL SIMPLE COSTS ALSO. THANKS

*Please print. Your name, address, and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.

Please either deposit this sheet at the sign-in table before you leave today, or fold, stamp, and mail. Insert additional sheets if needed. Comments must be received by February 27, 2003. Comments may also be faxed to the project hotline at (650) 240-1720 or emailed to jeffmartin@aspeneq.com.



CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)

Scoping Comments

Proposed Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Line Project

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Name*: ED + ELSIE CARLSON

Affiliation (if any):*

Address*: 2024 TICONDEROGA DR

City, State, Zip Code*: SAN MATEO, CA 94402

Telephone Number*: (650) 345-3096

Email:*

WE WANT THE POWER UNDER GROUND.

THE TOWERS ARE UGLY AND A HEALTH

HAZARD.

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CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)
Scoping Comments
Proposed Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Line Project
Wednesday, January 29, 2003
Name*: Mrs. Kwan Yee Liu
Affiliation (if any):* _____

Address*: 1337 Skyview Drive
City, State, Zip Code*: Burlingame, California, 94010
Telephone Number*: (650) 342-4402

Email*: When we bought our home in 1970 with PG&E's tower on the other side of our back fence, the possible health hazards of EMF was not mentioned. Today, things have changed. As an impacted homeowner, I strongly urge that (1) the underground alternative, or (2) moving the towers to the uninhabited side of 230 be adopted: to address that future findings may show EMF to be more harmful than costly measures again have to be undertaken. Landslide, and earthquake hazards for ridge-top tower sites (e.g. the one back of my house) are scary and should be considered. There are also aesthetic and property value to be considered. The equity I have in this house is my major savings, other than my social security.

Feb 27, '03

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CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC)
Scoping Comments
Proposed Jefferson-Martin 230 kV Transmission Line Project
Wednesday, January 29, 2003
Name*: Eunice & Jim Scherer
Affiliation (if any):* _____

Address*: 40 Burgoyne Ct.
City, State, Zip Code*: San Mateo, CA 94402
Telephone Number*: (650) 638-0801
Email*: EUJIMTC@YAHOO.COM

We live in the Highlands community and are adamantly opposed to PG&E's proposal to replace the power towers with bigger ones. We are extremely concerned about the health effects from increased EMF emissions. We have 3 young children and we would definitely feel threatened by the possible effects.

Is the power really needed in San Francisco? What proof is available? If more power is truly needed, then find alternate ways to do it so that our children and neighborhood is not impacted.

Thank You,

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To: California Public Utilities Commission
Re: Scoping Comments regarding Proposed Jefferson-Martin 230 kV
Transmission Line Project
Name: Kristina Klausen
Affiliation: San Mateo Highlands Resident
Address: 1775 Lexington Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94402
Phone: 650-577-1779
Email: Kristinaklausen@yahoo.com

CONCERNS:

As a resident of the San Mateo Highlands, I am very concerned about PG&E's proposal to replace the Jefferson-Martin transmission line with taller towers and a four-fold increase in electrical voltage. In short, I believe the project, if completed, would have a detrimental impact on our distinctive community in the following ways:

1. Increased risks to health from greater exposure to EMF's.

Health risks: While I am aware that evidence is not yet conclusive about the long-term effects of EMF's, the latest National Institute of Health shows a potential health risk, including higher incidence of childhood leukemia, brain tumors, and miscarriages.

Vulnerable demographic groups: Our neighborhood houses a mix of older "original" homeowners, and new young families. Both of these demographic groups, the elderly and children, are said to be most vulnerable to the effects of EMF's. Given the potential risks EMF's pose to youth, it is particularly concerning that the Highlands houses a number of youth oriented facilities in close proximity to the power towers, specifically:

- Highlands Elementary School on Bunker Hill,
- Highlands Recreational Center (with a nursery school and playground), and
- The Youth Services Center on Tower Road, which is to be enlarged to provide residential facilities for more juveniles.

On a personal level, as the mother of a 10-month-old baby, I consider the potential health risks from high voltage power lines unacceptable -- in any neighborhood.

Economic considerations: Dealing responsibly with EMF risks today makes economic sense to avoid costly retrofits that could be required when definitive evidence of the risks of EMFs becomes available.

2. A negative impact on our distinctive neighborhood aesthetics.

While the proposed larger power towers would negatively affect views in most communities, our community, composed mostly of Eichler homes built in the 1950's would be even more adversely affected because of the unique characteristics of Eichler's design:

Our unimposing streetscapes would be dwarfed by towers: Eichler homes were designed to be unimposing from the street, and blend into their surroundings with a minimal

impact on nature. While the existing power towers are unsightly, many are screened by trees. Adding approximately 25 feet to the towers would cause them to completely dwarf adjacent trees and houses (many of which have a roof height of only 12-14 feet) and visually dominate the streetscape.

Eichler's "outside in" design is sensitive to views: Eichler homes generally have an entire wall of floor to ceiling windows to "let the outside in". As a result, our community is even more vulnerable to changes that affect views. In particular, homes on the west side of Lexington Avenue, (i.e., backing on to the watershed) have their living rooms at the back of the house, with a wall of windows to capitalize on the view. Thus, in our neighborhood installing larger power towers in the watershed equates to affecting people's *front yards*.

Our Eichler neighborhood is architecturally important and worth protecting: In response to community interest in preserving the aesthetics of our neighborhood, the Highlands Community Association is developing Design Review Guidelines, to ensure that any renovations to houses respect others' views and the special character of our neighborhood. Some Eichler neighborhoods have even taken this a step further, and sought historical designation – something our neighborhood might also do. Regardless of whether there is an official designation, our Eichler neighborhood is an important and vibrant example of California's architectural history, and we should not mar this rare gem.

3. Noise concerns.

Noise during construction: Removed from thoroughfare traffic, the Highlands is a quiet, peaceful neighborhood. This quiet would certainly be disrupted during the construction period as a result of helicopters and earthmoving equipment, and potential blasting.

Noise after construction: Often on foggy mornings a loud buzz coming from the power lines can be heard on Lexington Avenue and beyond. I am concerned that higher voltage wires could result in a louder noise, or noise being heard more often or farther away.

4. Negative Impact on Property Values.

Significant potential impact on homeowners: As a result of the above concerns, I believe there is a significant potential risk to property values in the Highlands. With property values averaging around \$800,000 in our neighborhood, every 1% decrease in property values has an \$8,000 cost to a resident – a significant impact indeed. Historically, homes along Lexington Avenue set the maximum range on neighborhood property values, and sharp drops in prices could have a spill over effect on the rest of the community.

Possibility of neighborhood decline: During the past number of years the Highlands has been undergoing a regeneration. If property values drop, and people's houses are worth less, they may be less inclined (and less able) to take care of them, with a dilapidating affect on this architecturally important neighborhood. A drop in property values would reduce the local tax base and could result in reduced community services.

ALTERNATIVES:

I believe viable alternatives to the proposed Jefferson-Martin exist, and urge the CPUC to give them full consideration. Alternatives include:

- 1. Not doing the project at all.** Questions have been raised about whether PG&E's forecasts are realistic and whether power is really needed in San Francisco. If it truly is, then local generation options or alternative transmission routes should also be explored.
- 2. Move the power lines** west away from our houses, ideally west of 280.
- 3. Install the proposed 230kV line underground,** with proper shielding to reduce EMFs near houses. Ideally put the current 60kV lines underground at the same time to enhance the beauty of the watershed and our community.
- 4. Develop an underground/overground route,** with the lines underground where they are close to homes and overground where they are not near homes.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I believe the Jefferson-Martin 230kV Transmission Line Project, as currently proposed, will negatively affect our quality of life in the Highlands, a neighborhood that I love. I will be actively involved in this review process, and look forward to finding a solution that will meet San Francisco's power needs, while protecting the special qualities of our community.

R. Nuri Otus

1872 Black Mountain Road - Hillsborough, California 94010

February 27, 2003

Billie Blanchard
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street
Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94104

Via Fax
650-240-1720

RE: PG&E's proposal to upgrade existing high-voltage power lines near Highway 280

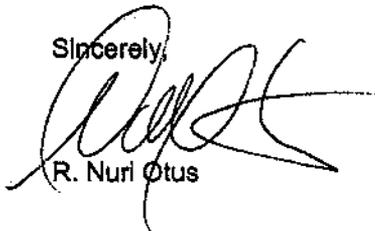
To Whom It May Concern:

As a concerned parent, I am writing in opposition to PG&E's proposal to upgrade existing high-voltage power lines near Highway 280 in Burlingame, Hillsborough and San Mateo. There are many alternatives available to PG&E that would make this upgrade safer and less aesthetically objectionable. There are many cases throughout the country linking high-voltage power lines to brain tumors and cancer.

I encourage the California Public Utilities Commission to deny PG&E's proposal and require them to submit a plan that would move the power lines underground wherever possible.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



R. Nuri Otus

Via Email (jeffmartin@aspene.com) and Facsimile (650) 240-1720

27 February 2002

Billie Blanchard
California Public Utilities Commission
c/o Aspen Environmental Group
235 Montgomery Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94104

RE: Jefferson-Martin 230kV Transmission Project, Application Number: A-02-09-043

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to reiterate my concerns with respect to the above referenced project.

From what I know about the project and the process thus far, it seems no one has taken into account the adverse impact this project will have both during and after construction. Rather than fully analyze the impact, it appears a least cost approach has been taken. However, it is not prudent to measure costs merely in hard dollars as has been done in this case.

The project seems to have ignored the affects on local property owners and residents, not only from an aesthetic perspective but also from health and safety issues. Property owners are being expected to bear the burden of alleged increased power needs outside the local area. The negative impact of this project would begin at the time of construction and continue indefinitely. The impact to property values, perhaps amounting to a taking, would most certainly be negative due not only to aesthetic but also health concerns. Whether these health issues are real or perceived, the effect exists and must be taken into consideration. Furthermore, in an era of increasing awareness regarding the need for open space and buffer zones, this project has also ignored the environmental and wildlife issues. Finally, Highway 280 is a designated scenic corridor. Measures must be taken to preserve what remains of the natural landscape and wildlife that inhabits it.

Alternative solutions to the existing project must be fully considered and evaluated. The short sightedness of the proposed project is blatantly apparent. Existing property owners and residents should not be forced to live with burdens that should rather be the responsibility of the utility as it seeks to expand. There are alternatives that would meet the project needs while substantially reducing impact, these alternatives need to seriously considered and include relocating the towers or undergrounding the power lines. Of course, before any work is done, a realistic analysis must be completed as to whether there is even a need for the project or not.

I join my neighbors and neighboring communities in protesting this project. I can be reached during the day at 650-280-9046.

Regards,

/s/ Pamela Merkadeau
1644 Lexington Ave
San Mateo, CA 94402