

Comment Letter 170

California Public Utility Commissioner
Docket Number A. 08-05-039

WAY

Mr. Jenson Uchida
San Joaquin Cross Valley Loop Transmission Project
C/o Environmental Science Associates
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My name is Joel Heaton, I live at 3014 No. Filbert, Exeter, Ca.

I would like to start out by saying that Southern California Edison submitted a proposal for a loop line with the comment that there was no opposition. Needless to say, several years later, several meetings later and several hundred opponents later, the proposed line hasn't started to be built.

It's a said case, when SCE proposes to break the backs of local farmers so that the City of Visalia (at their own desire) can continue to grow which in turn needs to secure future utilities for their city.

Maybe it would be wise for the City of Visalia Planning and the local Utility Companies to all set down and do a better job in their planned growth mapping.

Taking out valuable farm land is not the answer. Let them go back to the drawing boards and lay out pathways for future utilities, if they need to go above ground; that will give SCE the time they need to upgrade the existing 100 year old transmission line that is in need for repair, if not total replacement. Talk about existing towers that should be replaced by taller more efficient towers and lines (per words from SCE).

I'm totally against the proposed action, until a realist plan is submitted. Let SCE put some money back into the infrastructure they currently have in the lines heading north from the Rector station, and then let's see what the actual costs would be to hook up a "LOOP" line.

Don't put the burden on the farmers; don't let SCE do to them like the smelt did to the water allocations to the West side of the valley.

Don't believe everything you hear about the vernal pools and how that area has been given to the Ecological Reserve. That just happened in the last 20 years and SCE has had transmissions lines out in the area for 80 years, and it seems that everything has survived so far.

Maybe if SCE planned just a little bit better, those sensitive plant species wouldn't be harmed. I can't perceive that SCE would inspect their lines that often that would have to run over a popcorn flower...

Don't let Farmersville go through careful study and planning of their commercial area, but to be ruined by the Loop line.

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If you feel the need to pass a Route, due to pressures from a large Utility Company, consider Route 3, just look at the aerial maps. it will save trees, jobs and lives. Trees do more than just carry a crop, they help clean the valley air, they give thousands a job, they support thousands of linking services and they feed the world, that's more than transmission lines can offer.

Joel Heaton

TOTAL P.0