

***Sentinel Butte Mutual
Water Company***

*Supplying water since 1898
Incorporated 1948
P.O. Box 606
Woodlake, CA 93286*



July 23, 2009

The Sentinel Butte Mutual Water Company has provided superior quantities and quality of water in the Woodlake and Elderwood area since 1898.

The proposed routes 2 and 6 will cross multiple water lines and will travel directly over one of the best producing water wells in our system. It is a wagon wheel type well that cannot be duplicated due to government agency restrictions. Sentinel Butte is stretched to its limits in drought years. The elimination of the well will jeopardize the entire water company in a time that no water can be easily replaced. The wells have been placed in the best areas for maximum yield. If we are forced to move our wells there is no guarantee that we will obtain any water. You cannot simply move over a little bit and expect to find a similar quantity of water or else it would have already been done. Any loss of water will be significantly more costly than just an easement strip as hundreds of acres of prime productive orchards will be eliminated.

Our water lines crisscross and in some instances run parallel to the proposed Power Lines. The relocation of these lines has not been properly addressed in the EIR. The agricultural and irrigation distribution mitigation measures referenced in the EIR are erroneous and incomplete.

We know that progress must take place in order to maintain a strong economic base. However route 3 makes much more sense. Route 3 will negate much of the economic and social problems associated with all of the other routes. The vernal pool area between the towns of Yettem and Seville off of Avenue 384 have existing Edison towers and easements. These are quite old and do not appear to be in great condition. Accordingly, the additional cost of replacing this old section using route 3 shouldn't be given much consideration when weighing comparative expenses of other routes. I also believe that they should be able to mitigate damage to the vernal pools by careful tower and line placement. Sentinel Butte Mutual Water Company strongly urges that SCE and the CPUC do the right thing and take the northern route.

Yours truly,



Doug Phillips
President
Sentinel Butte Mutual Water Company